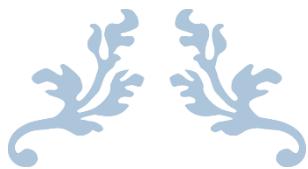




Catalog of Postal Orders Used in India

By
Anil R Bohora



Catalog of Postal Orders Used in India



By
Anil R Bohora

Catalog of Postal Orders Used in India

By Anil R. Bohora

First Edition: 2025 January 19

Last Updated: 2025 June 3

Publisher

Mr. Anil R. Bohora
24 Bohora House,
Gangapur Road,
Nashik - 422001
India
Email: bohoraa@yahoo.com

Copyright © Mr. Anil R. Bohora

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored or transmitted in any form, or by any means, electronic or mechanical including photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior written approval of the author.

This catalog is always a work in progress and we appreciate any feedback, comments, corrections, additional information, interesting scans that readers can provide. You can contact us via email at bohoraa@yahoo.com

Table of Content

1. Introduction	5
<i>Different Types of Indian Postal Orders</i>	6
2. India Postal Notes	7
<i>First Issue</i>	10
<i>Second Issue</i>	19
3. India Postal Notes Used in Princely States	24
<i>Gwalior, Jind, Nabha, Patiala</i>	27
<i>India Postal Notes for the Indian Field Force in Egypt</i>	33
4. Indian Postal Orders	34
<i>Introduction of Postal Orders in India</i>	34
<i>Indian Postal Order – King George V</i>	39
<i>Indian Postal Order – King George VI</i>	44
<i>Indian Postal Order – Denominations in Rupees & Annas</i>	50
<i>Indian Postal Order – Denominations in Rupees & Naye Paise</i>	53
<i>Indian Postal Order – Denominations in Rupees & Paise</i>	56
5. Indian Postal Orders - Bank Cheque Design	80
6. Field Postal Order	98
<i>Field Postal Order - Header Only in English</i>	99
<i>Field Postal Order – Header in English & Hindi</i>	100
7. Indian Postal Orders Overprinted for Use in Pakistan	102
8. British & Irish Postal Orders Used in India	103
<i>British Postal Orders Used in India</i>	104
<i>Irish Postal Orders Used in India</i>	120



Introduction

1

On January 1st 1881 Great Britain became the first country in the world to issue Postal Orders. Ten different denominations were issued.

Indian Postal Notes were introduced on 1st January 1883 and withdrawn on 31st October 1886.

Indian Postal Orders were introduced on 1st April 1935.

Postal Order is an order for payment of a specified sum to a named payee, issued by the Post Office very similar to a bank cheque.

Postal Orders provide a convenient means of transmitting small sums of money by post.

Postal Orders for set values can be bought at the post office. They could then be sent by the post and redeemed by the recipient at their local post office.

Postal orders could be paid into a Post Office savings account, a bank account, or exchanged for cash.

Indian Postal Orders can be crossed like bank cheques.

Indian Postal Orders were in great demand when the banking was not widely available. Indian Post Offices had better and wider network in rural areas and small town than the banks.

The Electronic Indian Postal Order (e-IPO) was introduced on 22nd March 2013, initially only for Indian citizens living abroad. The e-IPO can be used for online payment. The service was expanded for all Indian citizens on 14th February 2014.



Money Remittance Services Offered by India Post

India Post with more than 150,000 branches across the country provides money remittance services. Money Order and Postal Order were the only means of money remittance in old days. Following are the money transfer services available in Post Offices.

- Ordinary Money Order (MO)
- eMO (Electronic Money Order)
- iMO (Instant Money Order)
- Indian Postal Order (IPO)
- e-IPO (Electronic IPO)
- Field Postal Order (FPO)
- MO through International Financial System (IFS MO)
- MO Videsh (Discontinued in Feb 2015)
- Mobile Money Transfer
- Western Union Money Transfer
- MoneyGram
- Electronic Fund Management System (EFMS)
- DBT through CPSMS
- Electronic Clearing System (ECS)

Different Types of Indian Postal Orders

Type	Postal Order Variety	Language Panel	Number of Places Serial Number Printed	Minimum Commission Value
Type 1	India Postal Notes- First Issue			3 Pies
Type 2	India Postal Notes- Second Issue			3 Pies
Type 5	King George V	Language Panel on Right	SN 1 Place, Top Left	1 Anna
Type 7	King George V	Language Panel on Right	SN 1 Place, Top Right	1 Anna
Type 10	King George VI	Language Panel on Right	SN 1 Place, Top Right	1 Anna
Type 11	King George VI	Language Panel in Center	SN 1 Place, Top Right	1 Anna
Type 12	King George VI	Provisionals		1 Anna
Type 20	Rupees & Annas	Language Panel in Center	SN 1 Place, Top Right	1 Anna
Type 21	Rupees & Annas	Language Panel in Center	SN 2 Places	1 Anna
Type 30	Rupees & Nay Paise	Language Panel in Center	SN 2 Places	5 Nay Paise
Type 32	Rupees & Nay Paise	Language Panel in Center	SN 2 Places	10 Nay Paise
Type 40	Rupees & Paise	Language Panel in Center	SN 2 Places	10 Paise
Type 45	Rupees & Paise	Language Panel in Center	SN 1 Place, Bottom	10 Paise
Type 47	Rupees & Paise	Language Panel in Center	SN 1 Place, Bottom	20 Paise
Type 50	Updated Design	Language Panel on Right	SN 1 Place, Bottom	10 Paise
Type 52	Updated Design	Language Panel on Right	SN 2 Places	10 Paise
Type 55	Updated Design	Language Panel on Right	SN 1 Place, Top	20 Paise
Type 55A	Updated Design	Language Panel on Right	SN 1 Place, Top	20 Paise Surcharged 30 Paisa
Type 55B	Updated Design	Language Panel on Right	SN 1 Place, Top	20 Paise Surcharged 50 Paisa
Type 70	Design Like a Bank Cheque	MICR Serial Number - Text "AT THE POST OFFICE AT" on the <u>Left of Center</u>		50 Paise
Type 71	Design Like a Bank Cheque	MICR Serial Number - Text "AT THE POST OFFICE AT" in the <u>Center</u>		50 Paise
Type 72	Design Like a Bank Cheque	Non-MICR Serial Number		50 Paise
Type 72A	Design Like a Bank Cheque	Non-MICR Serial Number		50 Paise Surcharged 1 Rupee
Type 73	Design Like a Bank Cheque	Non-MICR Serial Number - Rupee Symbol (₹) Added		1 Rupee
Type 80	Field Postal Orders	Header Only in English		30 Rupees
Type 81	Field Postal Orders	Header in English & Hindi		30 Rupees



India Postal Notes

2

Information	<p>India Postal Notes were issued soon after the introduction of British Postal Orders in UK. As they were not very popular with the common public they were withdrawn soon after.</p> <p>The printed Indian Postal Notes themselves were of no monetary value. Specially introduced adhesive postage stamps must be pasted on the Indian Postal Notes for them to be of the required monetary value.</p> <p>East India Company's adhesive postage stamps of the denomination of the India Postal Note, specially overprinted at Calcutta, with text "I P N", "I" at the top, lower down "P" to left, and "N" to right were used. An adhesive postage stamp of the value, 8 Annas (Issue 1868 SG #73), 1 Rupee (Issue 1874 SG #79) or 12 Annas surcharged with "Rs 2, As 8" (Issue 1876 SG #82) is affixed in the center square.</p>
Regulations	
Years of Issue	<p>First Issue was introduced on 1st January 1883</p> <p>Second Issue was introduced in August 1884</p> <p>India Postal Notes were withdrawn from circulation on 31st October 1886</p>
Watermark	<p>First Issue: None</p> <p>Second Issue: Cut from a large size paper with watermark as text "GOVT / OF / INDIA / 1883" in an oval. Only partial watermark on each note.</p>
Printer	None
Size	<p>First Issue: 143 x 87 mm²</p> <p>Second Issue: 147 x 106 mm²</p>
Denominations	8 Annas, 1 Rupee, 2 Rupees 8 Annas



SG #73



SG #79



SG #82 with Surcharge

Reference: The Postage Stamps, Envelops, Wrappers, Post Cards, and Telegraph Stamps of British India and Ceylon, by The Philatelic Society, London, 1892

POSTAL NOTICE.

INDIA POSTAL NOTES.

POSTAL NOTES for fixed sums of money

will, with effect from the 1st January 1883, be issued to the Public. They will always be obtainable from Head Post Offices, and generally from Sub and Branch Post Offices also. They will be payable only at Indian Offices.

2. Below are shown the amounts for which Postal Notes are issued, with the commission chargeable on each value:—

Postal Notes are of three values.	Rs. 2 as. 8. Re. 1. As. 8.	Commission 1 anna. " 6 pies. " 3 pies.	Printed in black. red. blue.
---	----------------------------------	--	------------------------------------

3. The remitter of a Postal Note must, before parting with it fill in the name and address of the person to whom the amount is to be paid. The person so named must, before payment can be made, sign the receipt on the back of the Note, and also fill in the name of the Post Office (Head, Sub or Branch) at which payment is to be made. Should the name of a Sub or Branch Post Office be filled in, the money will be obtained by that Sub or Branch Post Office from the Head Post Office.

4. Postal Notes are to be transmitted to the payees by the remitters themselves and not by the Post Office as is the case with Money Orders.

5. Every purchaser of a Postal Note should keep a record of the number, date and name of the Head Post Office of issue, so as to facilitate enquiry if the Note be lost.

6. After a Postal Note has once been paid, to whomsoever it is paid, the Government will not be liable to any further claim.

7. If any erasure or alteration be made, or if the Postal Note be cut, defaced or mutilated, payment will be refused.

8. After the expiration of three months from the last day of the month of issue a Postal Note will lapse. A lapsed Note will, on payment of a second commission, be payable during a further period of three months, at the expiration of which the Note will be forfeited.

A. U. FANSHAWE,
Postmaster General, Bombay.

Bombay, December 27, 1882.

POSTAL NOTICE.

WITH effect from the 1st of April, 1884, the Post Office will undertake the TRANSMISSION of INDIA POSTAL NOTES to ANY POST OFFICE selected by the HOLDER, and their DELIVERY and PAYMENT by POST-MEN at the ADDRESSES of the PAYEES named, under the following conditions :—

1. The holder of a Postal Note, i. e., either the original purchaser or any subsequent possessor, who wishes to transmit it by post to the payee, should present it at the window of the Post Office for this purpose, having first recorded in the space provided on the back of the note—

- (1) the name of the payee,
- (2) the full address of the payee,

(3) the Post Office at which he desires payment to be made. He must also affix a half-anna postage stamp on the reverse of the Postal Note.

2. The Post Office will grant a receipt to the holder for a Postal Note so tendered, and will forward and deliver the note to the payee named on it.

3. The postman who delivers the note will, at the time of delivery, pay the value of the note in cash to the payee, who must sign and return the note to the postman. In the absence of the payee named on the note, the latter may be delivered, and the money paid, to any person connected with the payee's household or business establishment who is accustomed to sign receipts for registered letters or parcels arriving to his address.

4. A post-card may be attached to a Postal Note tendered for transmission, and a post-card so attached will be delivered with the note.

5. The holder of a Postal Note tendered for transmission can obtain an acknowledgment of its delivery from the office of destination. For this purpose he must attach to the note a post-card bearing on the face his own name and full address, and on the back the following particulars, viz :—

- (a) The number of the note.
- (b) The Post Office from which it was purchased.
- (c) The value of the note.
- (d) The person to whom it is made payable.

After the note has been paid the Post Office will impress the date stamp on the acknowledgment in proof that the note has been duly paid, and return the acknowledgment to the address, written on it.

6. The above arrangement in no way prevents the holder of a Postal Note from remitting it to the payee himself, through the post or otherwise, but in that case the payee will have to present it himself at the Post Office for payment, instead of receiving payment through the postman.

H. E. M. JAMES,

Offg. Dir.-Genl. of the Post Office of India.

Calcutta, March 20, 1884.

First Issue of India Postal Note was introduced on January 1st, 1883.

The first issue was printed in India upon thin cream colored unwatermarked paper of the size 142 x 87 mm².

First Issue Design

On the top, in the center, in a straight line, is “India Postal Note for” in lowercase, with the value in words beneath in another straight line; large Roman capitals being employed for the two lower values, and large thick block type for the other. Beneath the value, in two lines of italics, is “Payable at any Head Post Office at any time within / three months from the last day of the month of issue.” Lower down, to left “No.” followed by the serial number, and to right a short dotted line for the signature of the issuing Postmaster. Beneath this, in a straight line, is “Head Post Master, Calcutta,” in italics, the last word being in larger type. Underneath to left in italics is “Dated” followed by a short dotted line, and “188” and a shorter dotted line.

Beneath this are three plain squares, formed of thin straight lines. Above the left, is “Dated Stamp of” and below, “Issuing Office.” Below the center one is “Commission 3 pies,” “6 pies,” or “1 anna.” Above the right, in two lines “Dated Stamp / of Paying Office” and below, “Cancelling this note.” All these inscriptions are in small italics. The center square contains the letters “I” at the top, lower down “P” to left, and “N” to right, in Roman capitals.

At either side of the India Postal Note are two long upright rectangles, each divided into five sections containing inscriptions denoting the value in various Indian languages. Note that the denominations are written in numeric value or are spelled out.

There are 2 varieties, where the 4th box on the right is left blank or having a value written.

The details of the language panels used on the First Issue of the India Postal Note are as below:

Left Language Panel	Languages	Right Language Panel	Languages
	Urdu		Telugu
	Hindi (in Words)		Bengali
	Hindi (in Numerals)		Oriya
	Gujarati (in Numerals)		Blank or Burmese (in Numerals)
	Tamil		Kannada

On the reverse side to left are instructions printed in ordinary type. The instructions are as follow: “Remitter must fill in payee’s name and address” “Pay to” “Name” “Address”. “Payee must fill in office of payment, and sign.” “Office of payment”. “Received” “EIGHT ANNAS” or “ONE RUPEE” or “TWO RUPEES 8 ANNAS”. “Signature of Payee named above”. A commission rate table is provided. Below that detailed rules are printed as below:

1. After the note has been paid, to whomsoever it is paid, Government will not be liable to any further claim.
2. If any erasure or alteration be made, or if the Note be cut, defaced, or mutilated, or if the stamp be removed, payment will be refused.
3. A Postal Note lapses at the expiration of three months from the last day of the month of issue; it can, on payment of second commission, be renewed for 3 months more, at the expiration of which period the Note will be forfeited.

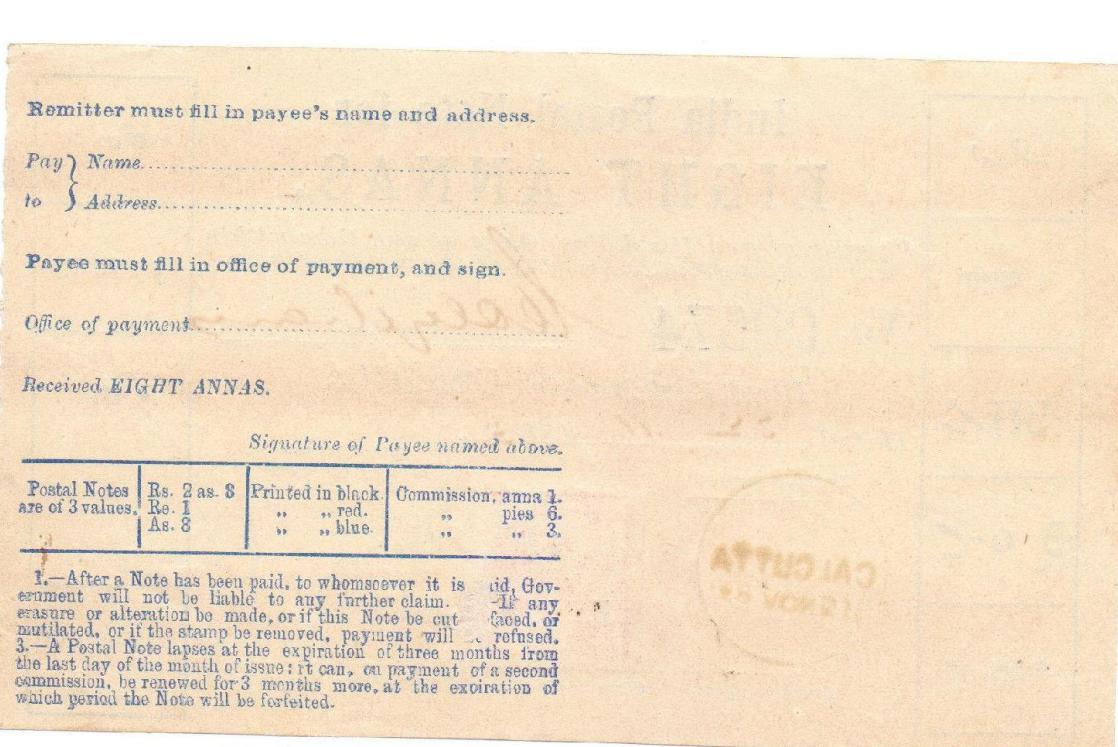
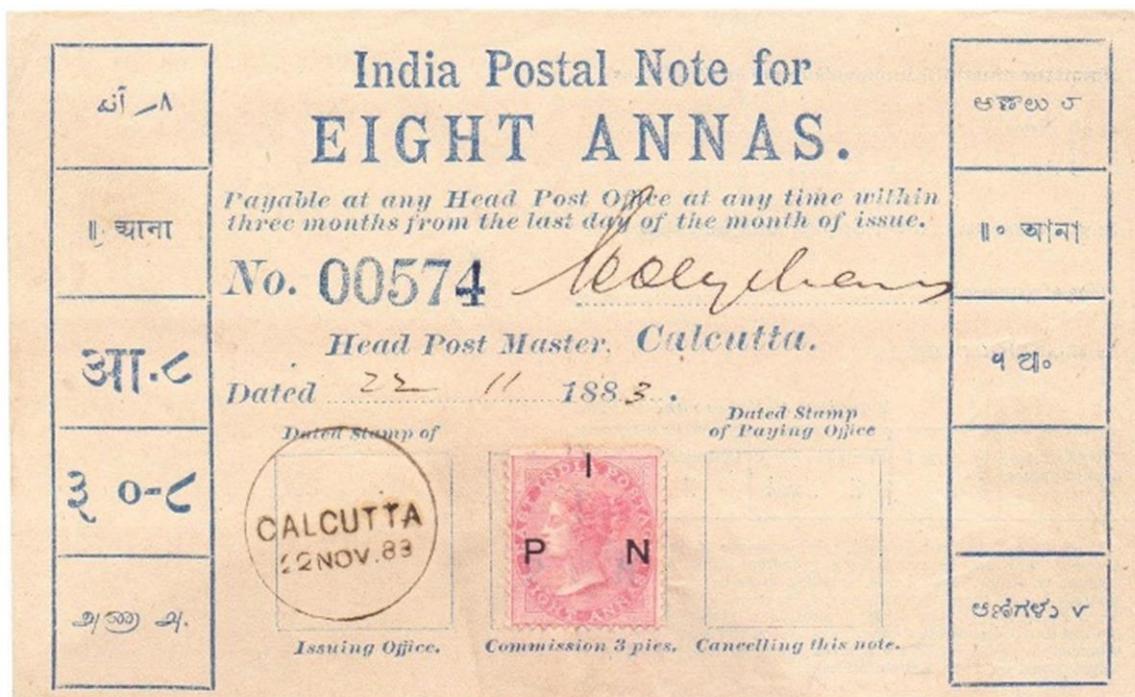
Based on the documented examples of the first issue of the Indian Postal Notes, they seem to be issued at the three main postal circles of Calcutta, Bombay & Madras and many other postal Sub-Circles.

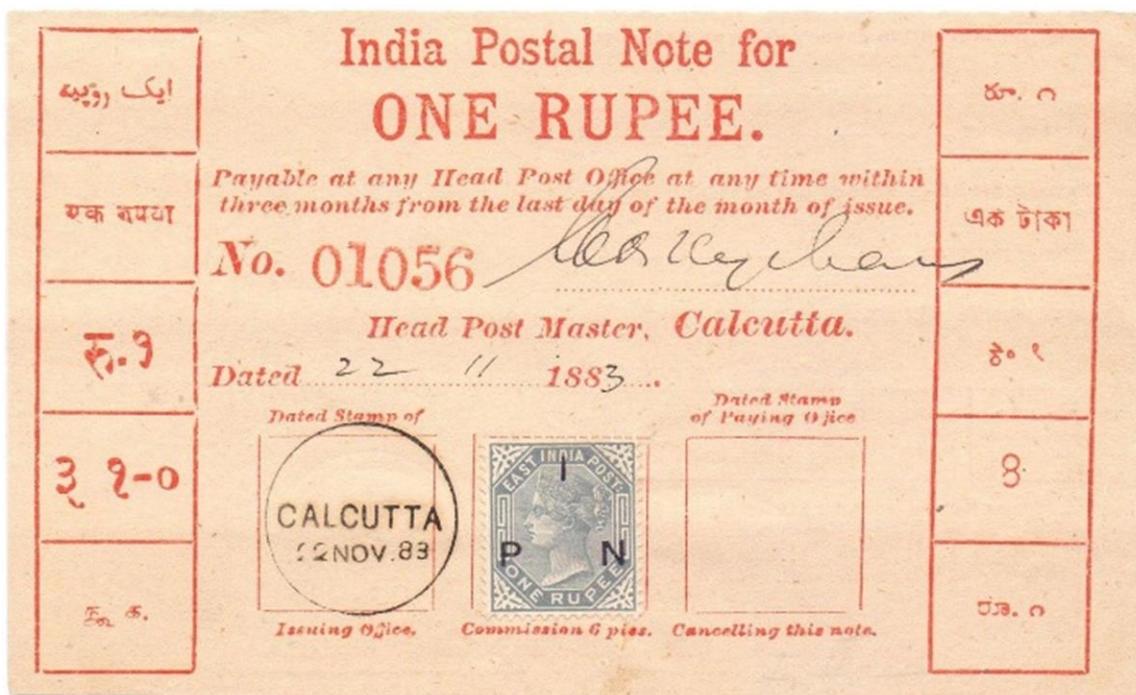
Design	Known Issue Post Offices	Postal Note Value	Commission	Color	Confirmed
First Issue	Calcutta, Bombay, Madras Bharnagar, Dalhousie, Dharwar, Jaunpur, Raipur, Rajahmundry, Simla, Vizagapatam	8 Annas	3 Pies	Blue Text	Yes
First Issue	Calcutta, Bombay, Madras Calicut, Chakrata, Cochin, Muzzafarnagar, Rajahmundry, Simla	1 Rupee	6 Pies	Red Text	Image
First Issue	Calcutta, Bombay, Madras Dalhousie, Rajahmundry, Simla	2 Rupees 8 Annas	1 Anna	Black Text	Yes

Note: A detailed census of known India Postal Notes is provided in the article “Indian Postal Notes 1883-1886” by Jack Harwood, India Post, Volume 46 Number 184, January-March 2012. His conclusion is as follows: *“It is fair to say that any surviving Indian Postal Note is quite scarce. Serial numbers of surviving items indicate that roughly 30,000 IPNs, including Convention states issues, were produced. Of the 92 recorded surviving items, only 22 were actually issued (date stamped). Another 22 (none from the Convention states) are overprinted SPECIMEN. And the remaining 48 are unissued, and are probably ‘remainders’.”*

India Postal Note Acknowledgement Post Card

Often, an optional acknowledgement post card prepared by the sender of the India Postal Note was attached to the India Postal Note for eventual return to the sender to confirm the receipt by the receiver. No example of this acknowledgement post card is recorded.





Remitter must fill in payee's name and address.

Payee Name.....

to *J* Address.....

Payee must fill in office of payment, and sign.

Office of payment.....

Received, ONE RUPEE.

Signature of Payee named above.

Postal Notes are of 3 values.	Rs. 2 as. 8	Printed in black.	Commission, anna 1.
	Rs. 1	" .. red.	" pies 6.
	As. 8	" .. blue.	" " 3.

1.—After a Note has been paid, to whomsoever it is paid, Government will not be liable to any further claim. 2.—If any erasure or alteration be made, or if this Note be cut, defaced, or mutilated, or if the stamp be removed, payment will be refused. 3.—A Postal Note lapses at the expiration of three months from the last day of the month of issue; it can, on payment of a second commission, be renewed for 3 months more, at the expiration of which period the Note will be forfeited.

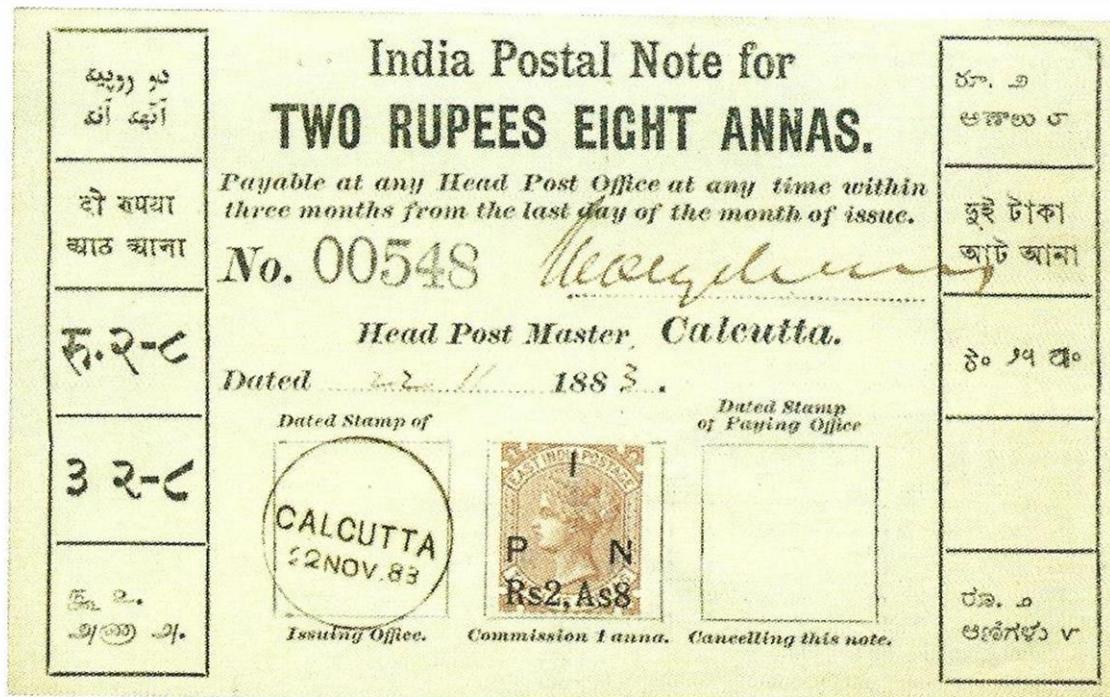
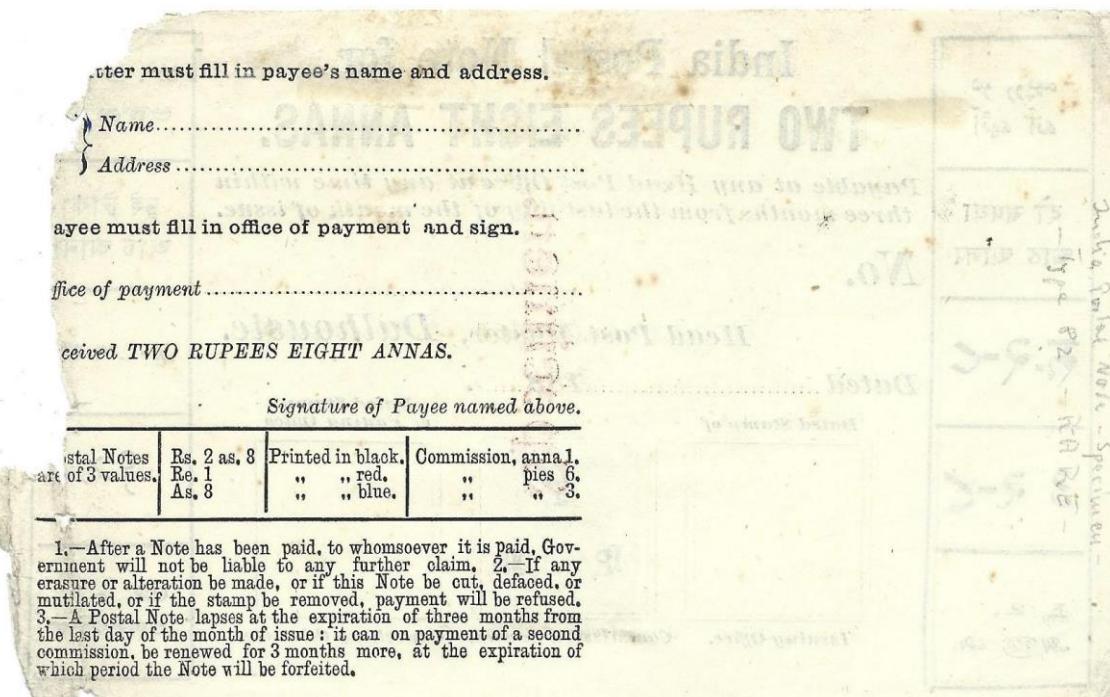


Image Courtesy: Postal Stationery of British India 1856-1947 by Pratisad Neurgaonkar



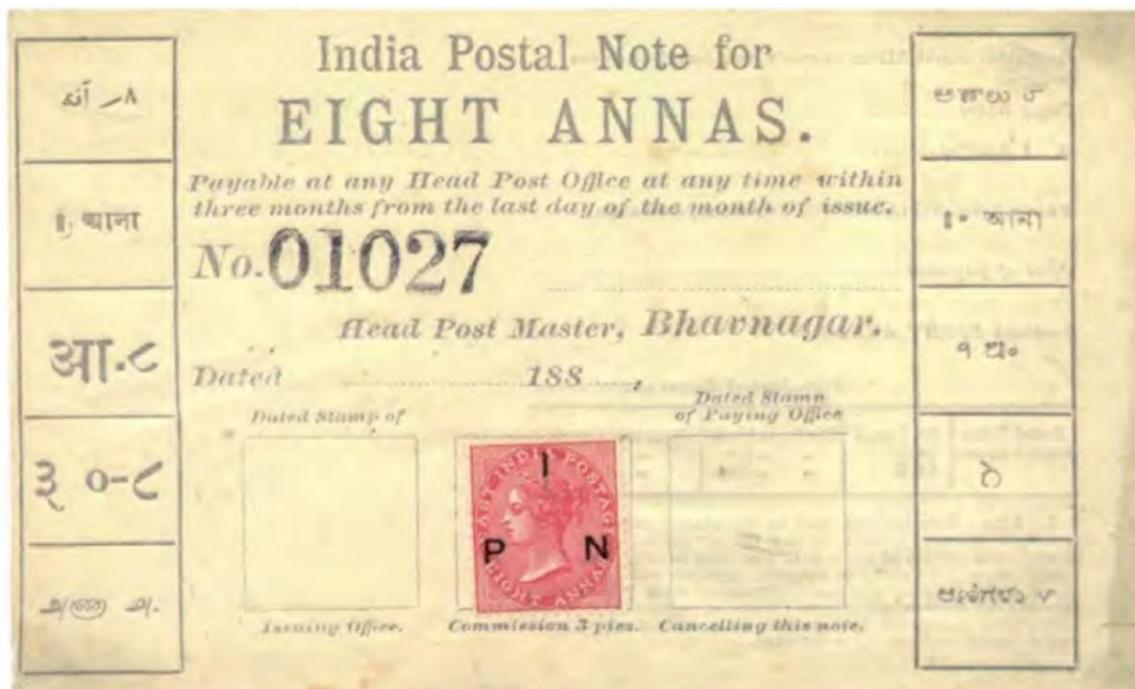


Image Courtesy: Indian Postal Notes 1883-1886 by Jack Harwood, India Post, Volume 46, 2012

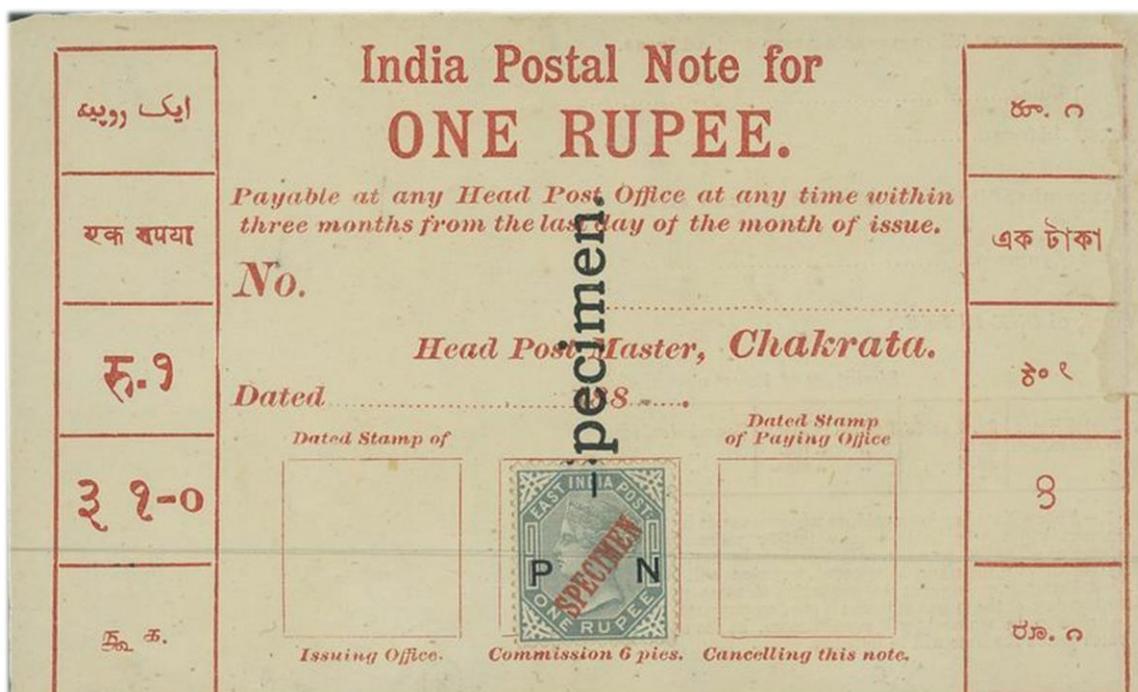


Image Courtesy: Spink Auctions

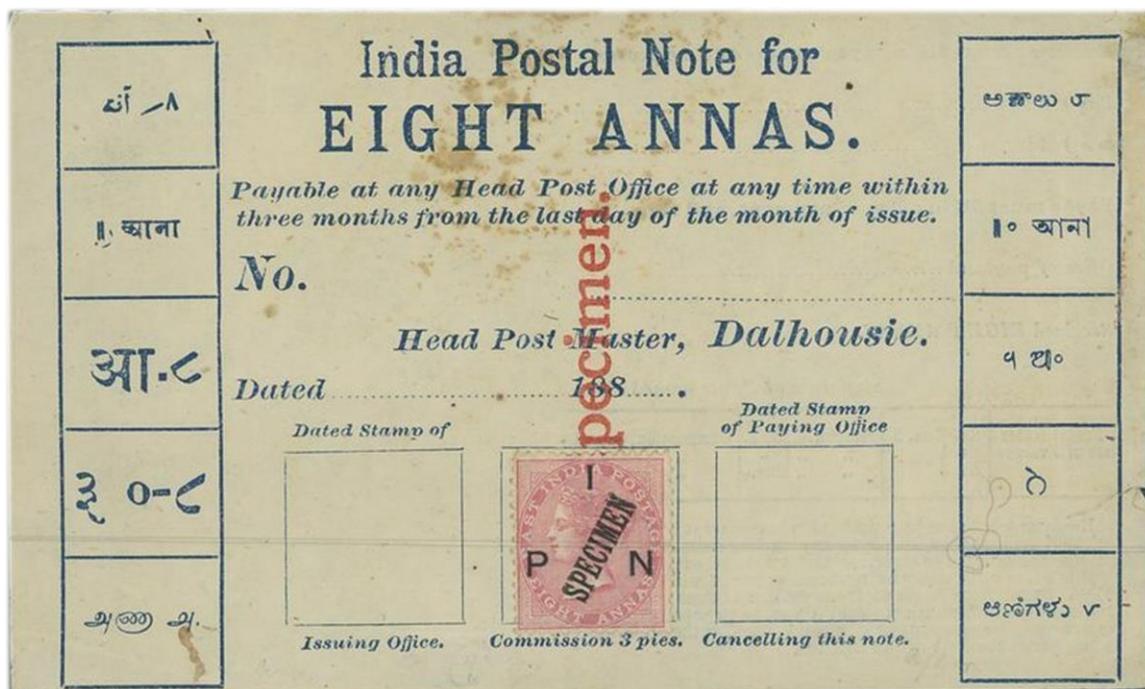
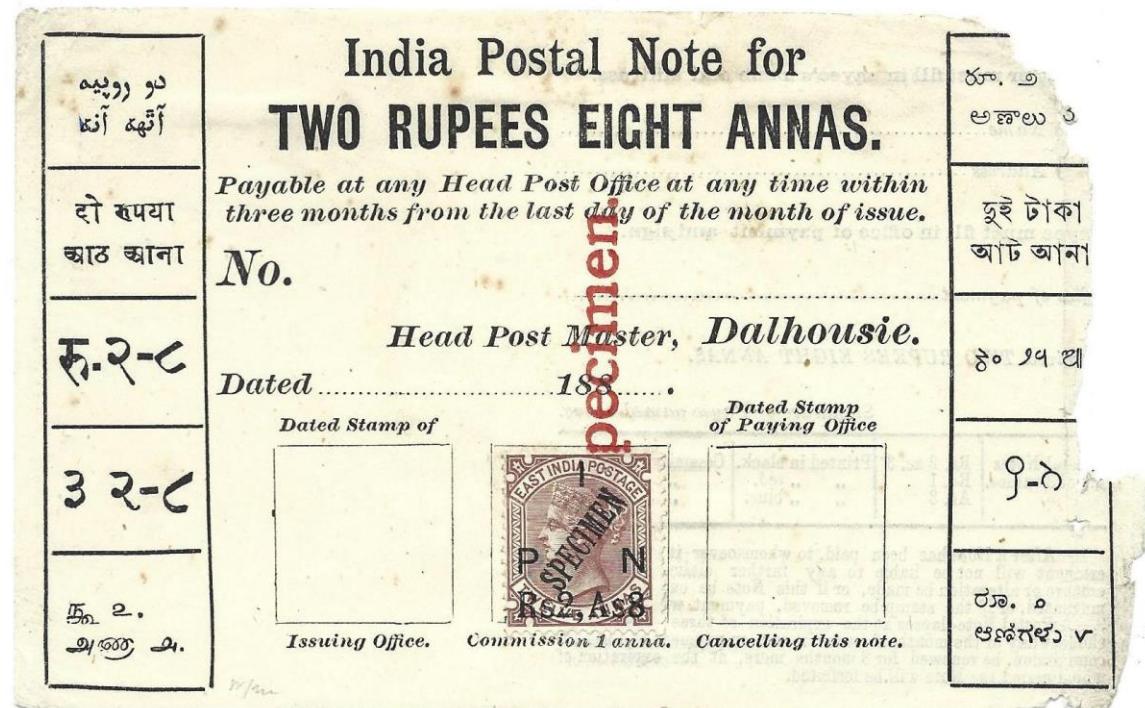
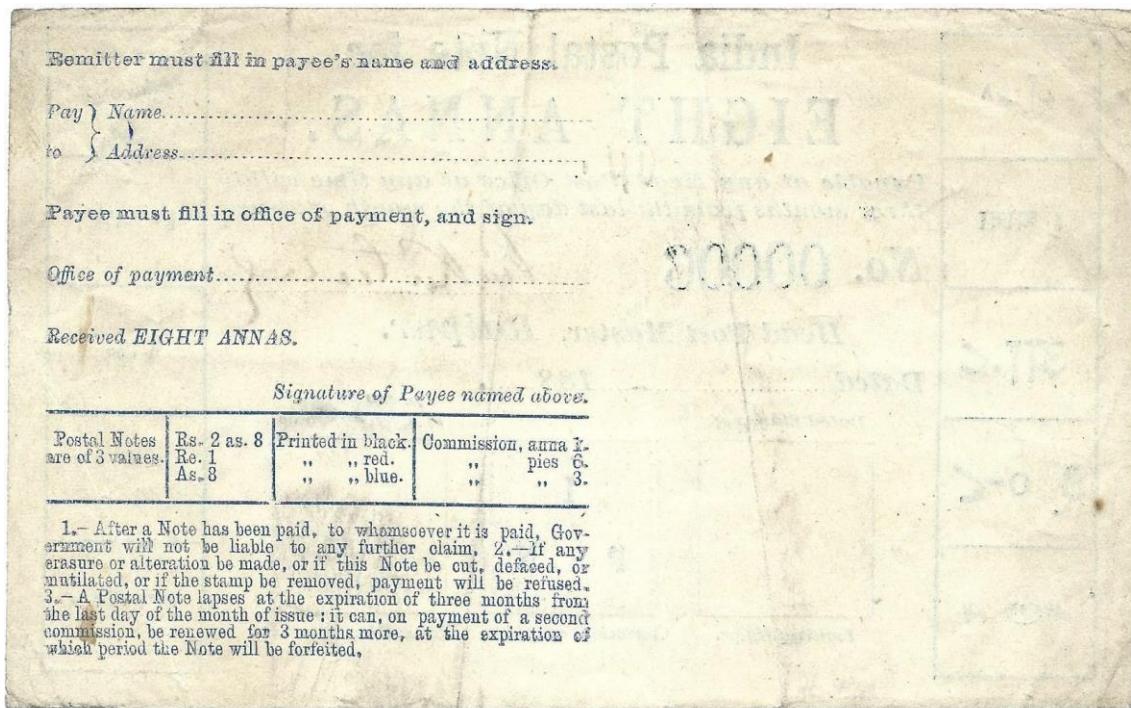
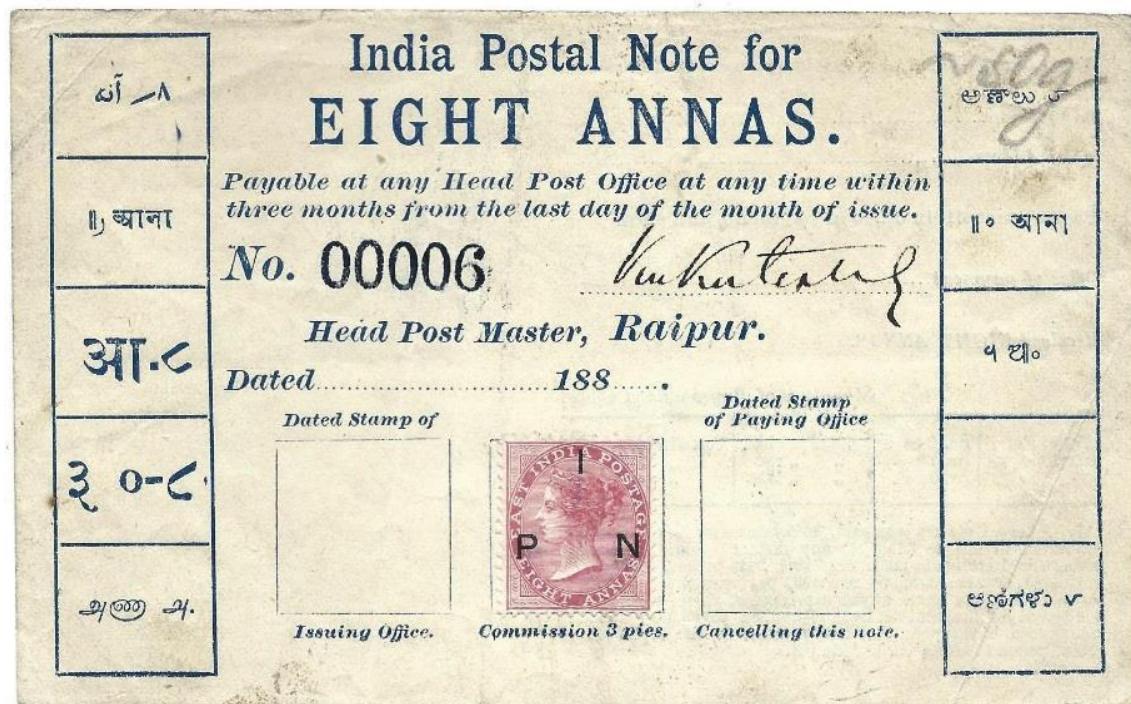


Image Courtesy: Spink Auctions





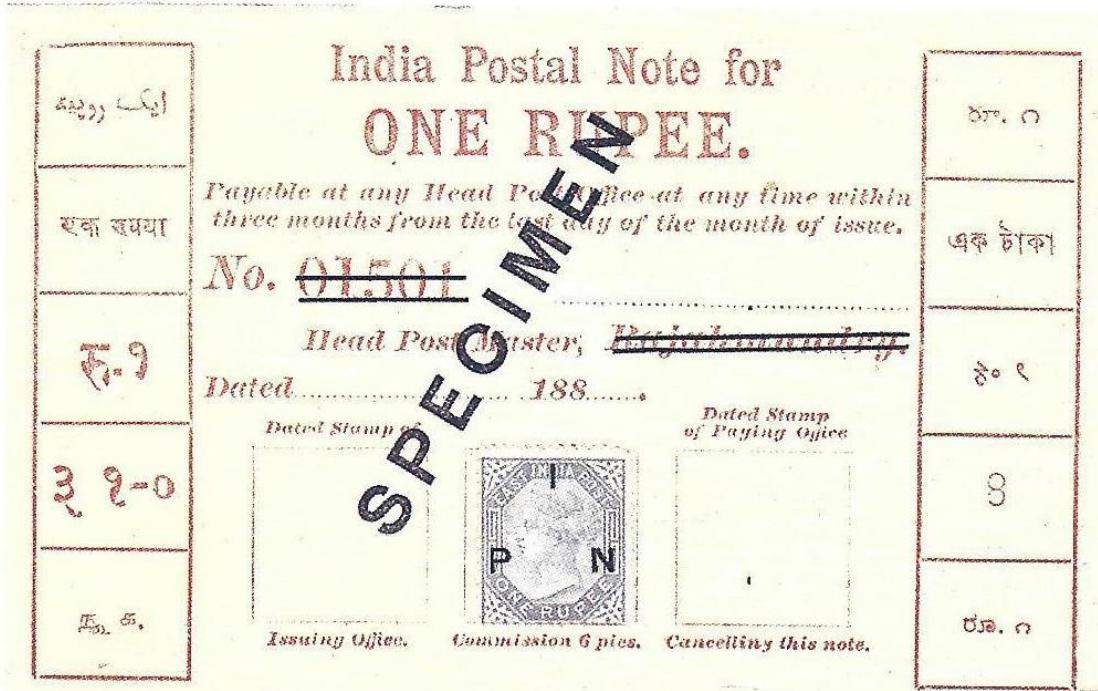


Image Courtesy: Postal Stationery of British India 1856-1947 by Pratisad Neurgaonkar

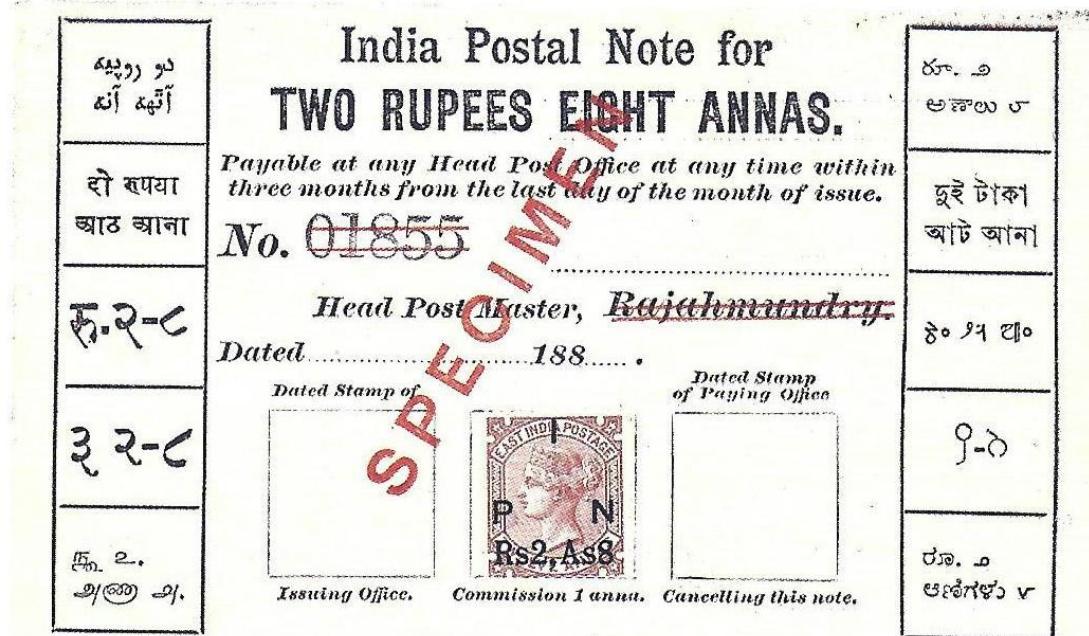


Image Courtesy: Postal Stationery of British India 1856-1947 by Pratisad Neurgaonkar

Second Issue of India Postal Note was introduced in August 1884.

The second issue was printed in India upon cream colored watermarked paper of the size 147 x 106 mm².

Second Issue Design

The second issue was introduced to improve the security of the Postal Notes by using the watermarked paper and introducing colored underprint to make it harder to copy.

The design is similar to that of First Issue, with the following modifications. The British Coat of Arms is introduced in the first line of the inscription, between the words “Postal” and “Note”. The second line of the inscription is printed upon a reticulated colored underprint, and the rectangles at the side are printed upon a colored underprint composed of small squares with an ornamental border. The left and right hand squares at the bottom are replaced by large circles, formed by a thin line, and the inscriptions above and below are curved instead of being in a straight line. Additionally, in the center, colored numerals of value are under printed.

The instructions on the reverse side are printed in ordinary type in English to left, and in Urdu to the right.

Based on the documented examples of the second issue of the Indian Postal Notes, they seems to be issued at the three main postal circles of Calcutta, Bombay & Madras.

Design	Issue Circle	Postal Note Value	Commission	Color	Confirmed
Second Issue	Calcutta	8 Annas	3 Pies	Blue Text & Pale Red Underprint	Image
Second Issue	Calcutta	1 Rupee	6 Pies	Red Text & Green Underprint	
Second Issue	Calcutta	2 Rupees 8 Annas	1 Anna	Black Text & Pale Yellow Underprint	Image
Second Issue	Bombay	8 Annas	3 Pies	Blue Text & Pale Red Underprint	Image
Second Issue	Bombay	1 Rupee	6 Pies	Red Text & Green Underprint	
Second Issue	Bombay	2 Rupees 8 Annas	1 Anna	Black Text & Pale Yellow Underprint	
Second Issue	Madras	8 Annas	3 Pies	Blue Text & Pale Red Underprint	Image
Second Issue	Madras	1 Rupee	6 Pies	Red Text & Green Underprint	
Second Issue	Madras	2 Rupees 8 Annas	1 Anna	Black Text & Pale Yellow Underprint	Image

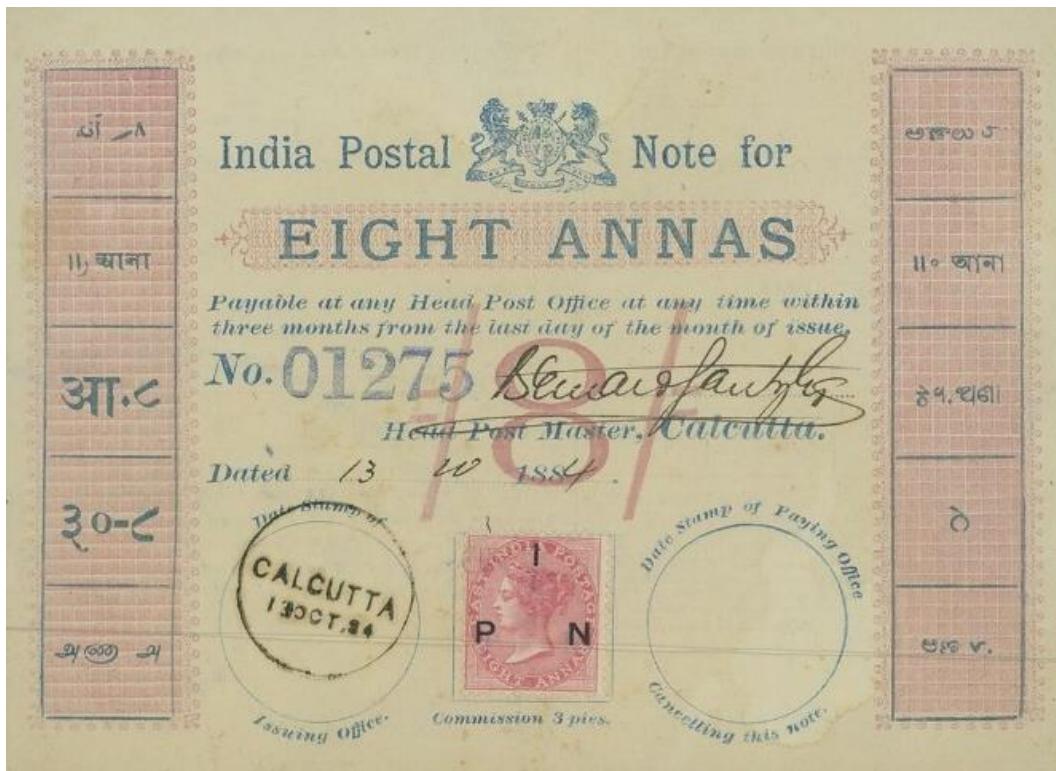
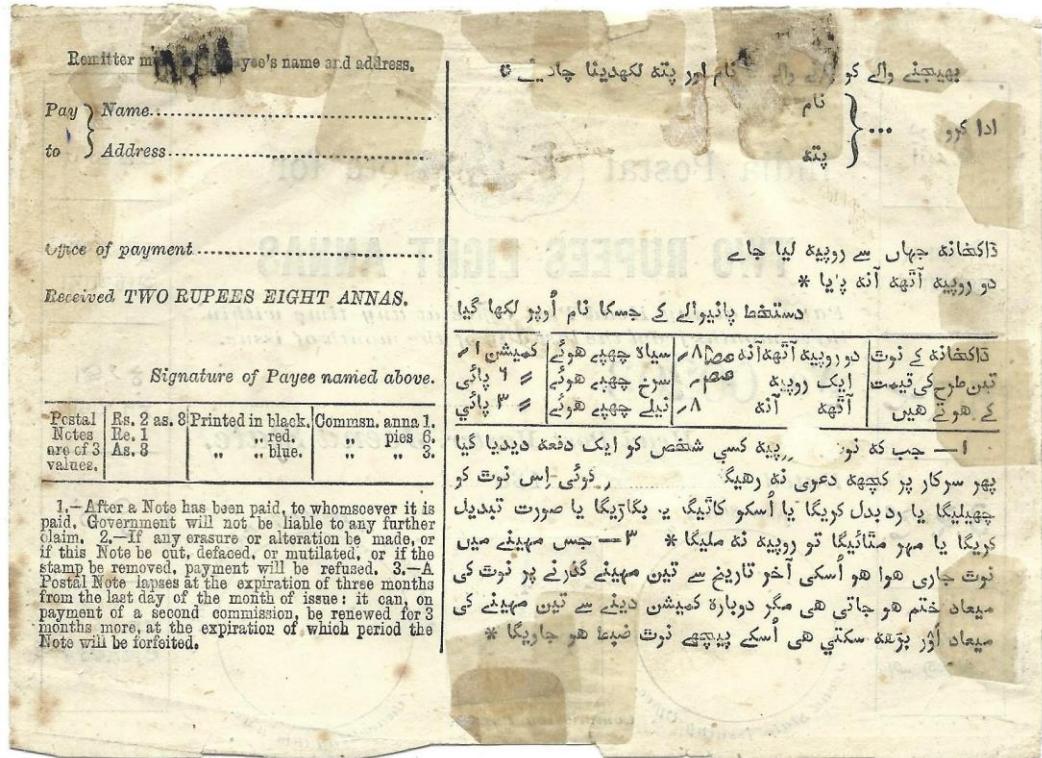
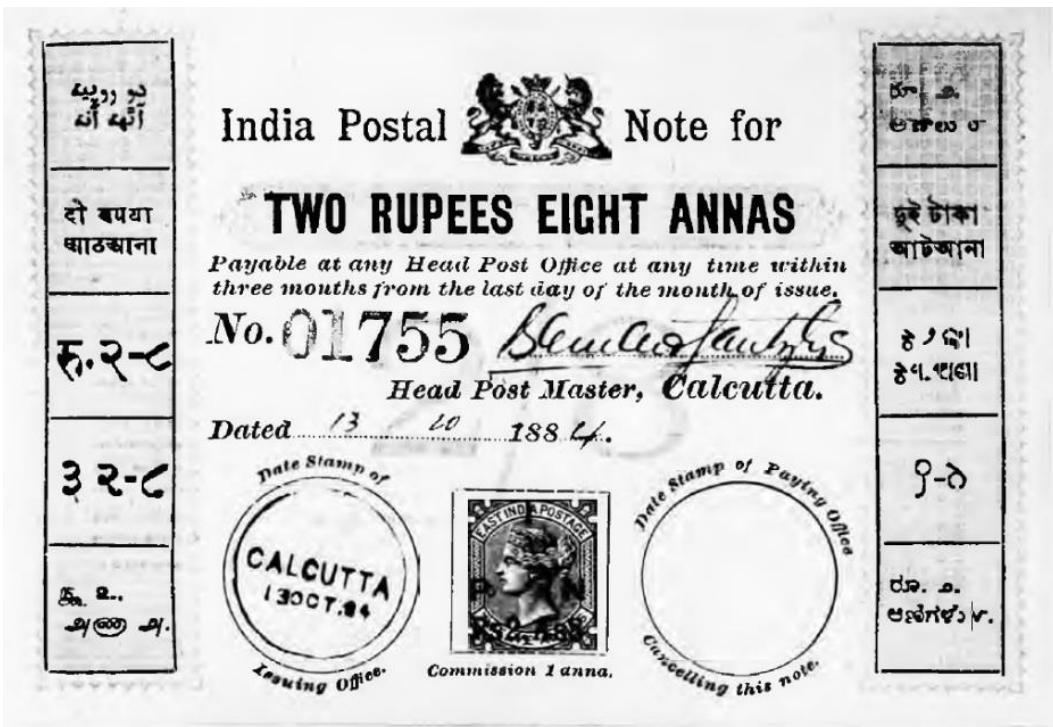
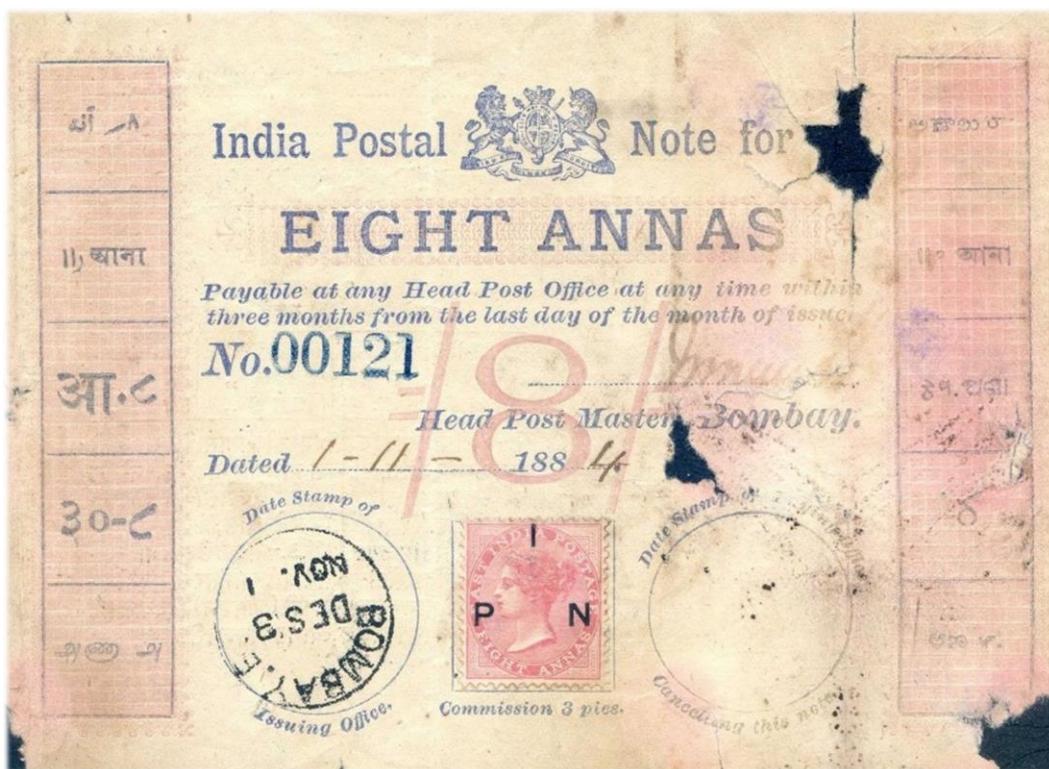


Image Courtesy: Spink Auctions

Pay } Name.....		بیجھنے والے کو پانے والے کا نام اور پتہ لکھ دینا چاہیئے *	
to } Address.....		نام ادا کرو ... پتہ	
Office of payment.....			
Received EIGHT ANNAS.			
Signature of Payee named above.			
Postal Notes are of 3 values.	Rs. 2 as. 8	Printed in black.	Commrsn. anna 1. " .. red. " .. blue. " .. 3.
<p>دو روپیہ آٹھ آنڈھا عصمنا۔ ۱۔ سیالہ چھپے ہوئے کمیشن ۱۔</p> <p>ایک روپیہ صدر سرخ چھپے ہوئے ۶ پانچی آٹھ آنڈھا ۸۔ نیلے چھپے ہوئے ۳ دوسری</p> <p>دو روپیہ آٹھ آنڈھا عصمنا۔ ۲۔ جب کہ نوت کا روپیہ کسی شخص کو ایک دفعہ دیدیا گیا تو اس کار پر کچھ دعوی نہ رہیں۔ ۳۔ اگر کوئی اس نوت کو بیوں سرکار پر کچھ دعوی کرنے کا اسکو کاٹیں یا دیگریں یا صورت تبدیل کریں یا میر مٹائیں تو روپیہ نہ ملیں گا * ۴۔ جس مہینے میں نوت جاری ہوا ہو اُسکی آخر تاریخ سے تین مہینے گذرنے پر نوت کی میعاد ختم ہو جاتی ہی مگر دربارہ کمیشن دینے سے تین مہینے کی میعاد اُوز بُوہہ سکتی ہی اسکے پیچے ہوئے نوت ضبط ہو جاویدیں *</p>			





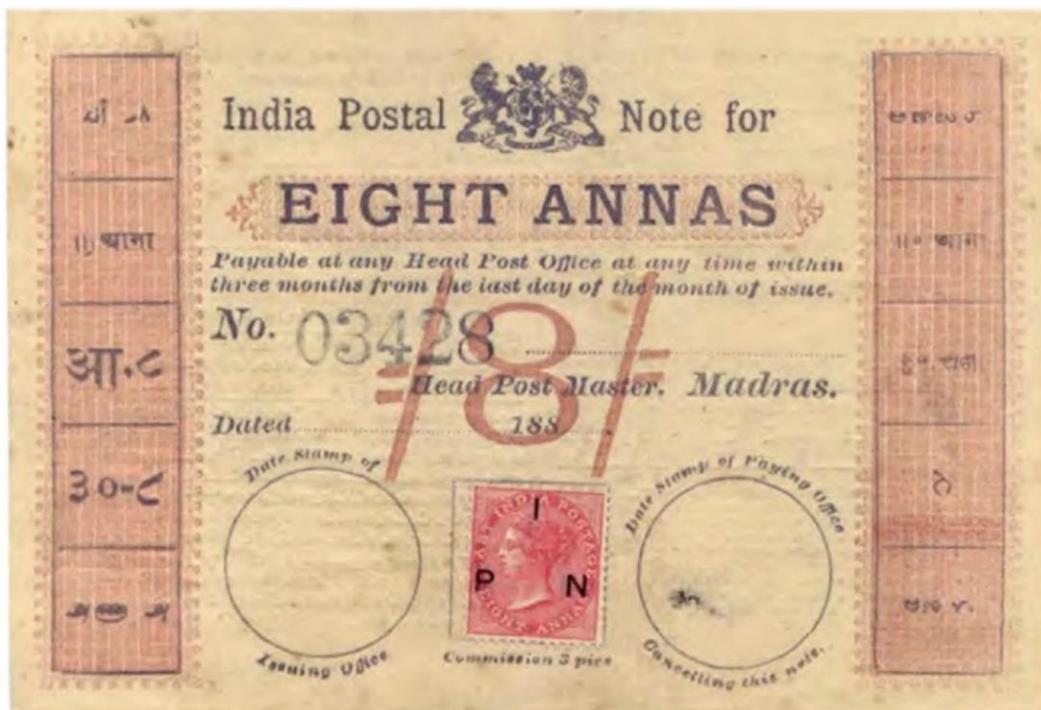


Image Courtesy: Indian Postal Notes 1883-1886 by Jack Harwood, India Post, Volume 46, 2012

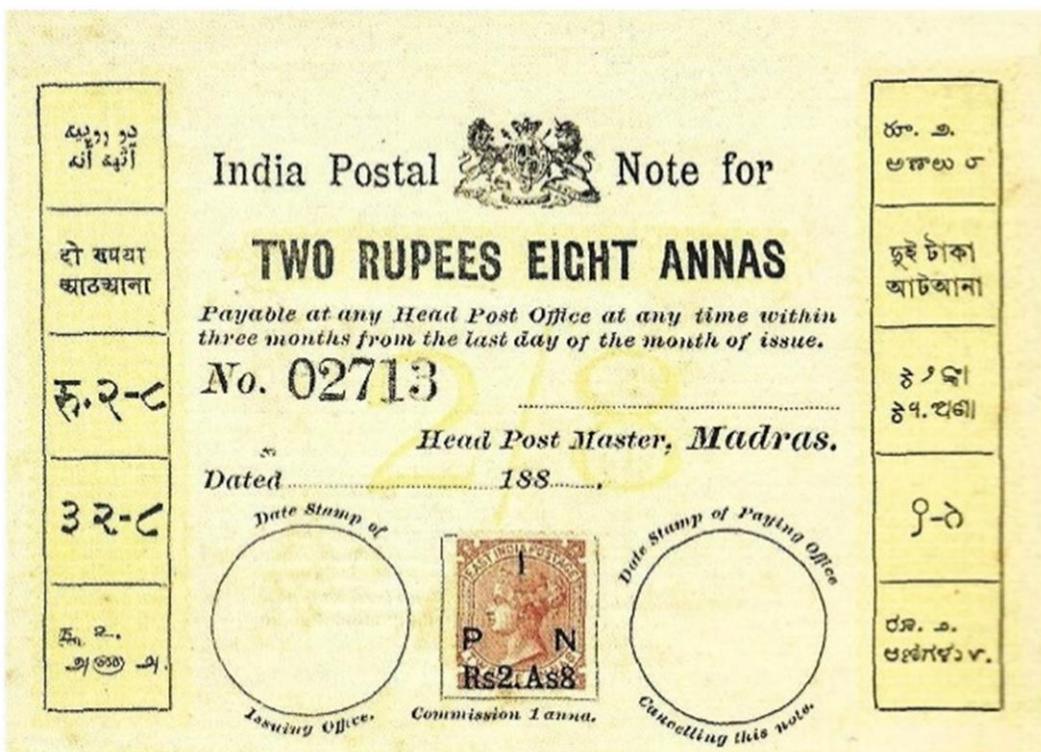


Image Courtesy: Postal Stationery of British India 1856-1947 by Pratisad Neurgaonkar

India Postal Notes Used in Princely States

3

Indian Princely States

During the times of British India some Indian Princely states have signed the Convention State agreements under which the British India was to provide them the required financial documents e.g. Postage Stamps, Court Fee Stamps, Stamped Papers & Savings Certificates with the name of the Princely State.

The known list of Indian Princely States for which the Second Issue of the India Postal Notes were overprinted is as below:

Princely State	Spelling Used on Postal Note	Convention Agreement Executed	Crest
Gwalior	Gwalior	1 st July 1885	
Jhind or Jind	Jeend	1 st July 1885	
Nabha	Nabha	1 st July 1885	
Patiala	Puttialla	1884	

The Indian Postal Notes of the convention states were very similar to Type 2. The only difference was that the crest of Great Britain at the top center was replaced by the crest of the appropriate state.

The India Postal Notes for Indian Princely States may have been used for a very short time, as by the time the modified India Postal Notes and the required I. P. N. Stamps were supplied, the India Postal Notes were withdrawn from circulation on 31st October 1886 in British India.

Also a point to note that, the postage stamps affixed to the Princely State Postal Notes were NOT additionally overprinted with the name of the Princely State.

Extract from Postal Convention Agreement Related to India Postal Notes

Postal Convention for the Exchange of correspondence, parcels, insured and Value-Payable Articles, Money Orders and **India Postal Notes**, between the Imperial Post Office of British India and for Post Offices in the Territories of His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala, - 1884.

Article 1.

There shall be a mutual exchange of correspondence, parcels, money orders and **India Postal Notes** between the Imperial Post Office of British India, hereinafter termed the "Imperial Post," and the Post Offices in the territories of His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala, hereinafter termed the "Patiala State Post." This exchange, which shall also include registered, insured and value-payable articles, shall be governed by the rules given in the Indian Postal Guide for the time being. The term "correspondence" shall include letters, post-cards, newspapers, and book and pattern packets.

Article 5.

The rates of postage, fees or commission charged by the Patiala State Post on all classes of correspondence, paid and unpaid, registered and unregistered, insured and value-payable, on all parcels, and on all money orders, and on all **India Postal Notes**, shall not be in excess of the rates charged by the Imperial Post.

Article 24.

India Postal Notes, bearing the words "Patiala State" stamped on them shall be supplied free by the Government of India to the Patiala State.

Article 25.

The full value of every **India Postal Note** sold by the Patiala State Post shall be payable in British India at any Imperial Post Office named, no charge being levied for payment.

Article 26.

The full value of every **India Postal Note** sold by the Imperial Post shall be payable in the Patiala State at any Patiala State Post Office named, no charge being levied for payment.

Article 27.

The Imperial Post shall retain the entire commission on the **India Postal Notes** which it sells, and the Patiala State Post shall retain the entire commission on the **India Postal Notes** which it sells.

Article 28.

Monthly lists shall be rendered by the Patiala Office of Exchange to the Umballa Office of Exchange showing the **India Postal Notes** sold and the **India Postal Notes** paid during each month, the vouchers for payments consisting of the ordinal paid notes.

Article 29.

A monthly account current showing the amount to be credited to the Patiala State an amount of money orders and **India Postal Notes** paid by the Patiala State Post, and the amount to be debited to the Patiala State on account of money orders issued and **India Postal Notes** sold by the Patiala State Post, shall be rendered by the Imperial Office of Exchange (Umballa) to the Patiala Office of Exchange. If the balance of this account is in favor of the Patiala State Post, it shall be paid at once by the Imperial Office of Exchange (Umballa), and if it is in favor of the Imperial Post, it shall be paid by the Patiala Office of Exchange immediately after the monthly account current is rendered.

India Postal Notes Used in Princely States

Different Types

Different types of the India Postal Notes Used in Princely States is as below:

Type	Princely State	Postal Note Value	Commission	Color	Confirmed
Type 2A	Gwalior	8 Annas	3 Pies	Blue Text & Pale Red Underprint	
Type 2A	Gwalior	1 Rupee	6 Pies	Red Text & Green Underprint	Image
Type 2A	Gwalior	2 Rupees 8 Annas	1 Anna	Black Text & Pale Yellow Underprint	Image
Type 2B	Jind	8 Annas	3 Pies	Blue Text & Pale Red Underprint	Yes
Type 2B	Jind	1 Rupee	6 Pies	Red Text & Green Underprint	Yes
Type 2B	Jind	2 Rupees 8 Annas	1 Anna	Black Text & Pale Yellow Underprint	Yes
Type 2C	Nabha	8 Annas	3 Pies	Blue Text & Pale Red Underprint	Yes
Type 2C	Nabha	1 Rupee	6 Pies	Red Text & Green Underprint	
Type 2C	Nabha	2 Rupees 8 Annas	1 Anna	Black Text & Pale Yellow Underprint	
Type 2D	Patiala	8 Annas	3 Pies	Blue Text & Pale Red Underprint	
Type 2D	Patiala	1 Rupee	6 Pies	Red Text & Green Underprint	Image
Type 2D	Patiala	2 Rupees 8 Annas	1 Anna	Black Text & Pale Yellow Underprint	
Type 2E	Indian Field Force in Egypt	8 Annas	3 Pies	Blue Text & Pale Red Underprint	
Type 2E	Indian Field Force in Egypt	1 Rupee	6 Pies	Red Text & Green Underprint	Yes
Type 2E	Indian Field Force in Egypt	2 Rupees 8 Annas	1 Anna	Black Text & Pale Yellow Underprint	



Image Courtesy: Indian Postal Notes 1883-1886 by Jack Harwood, India Post, Volume 46, 2012

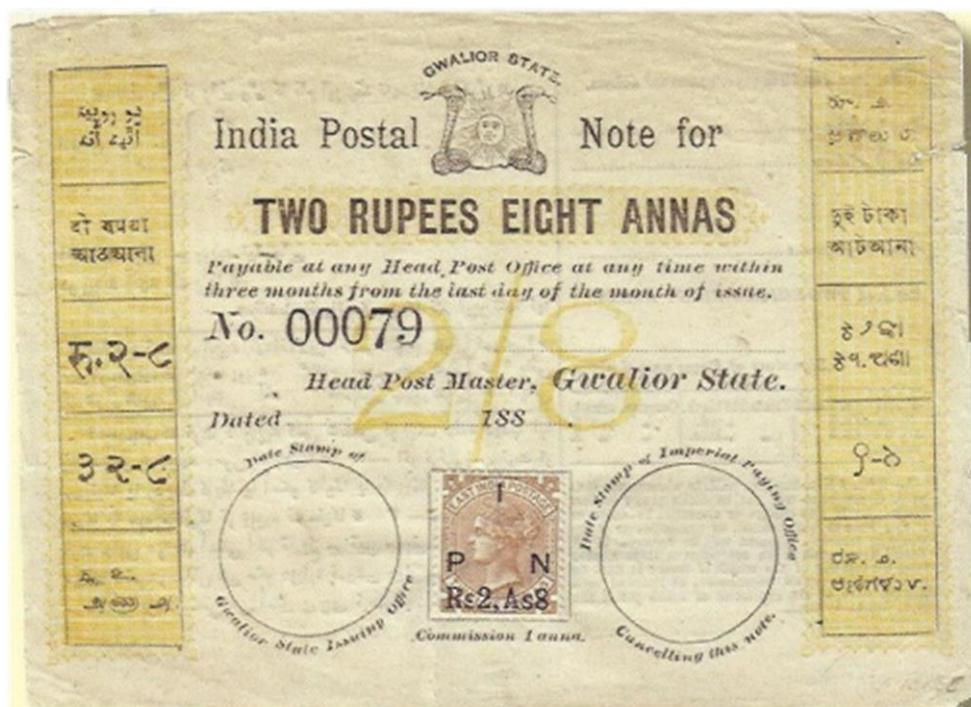
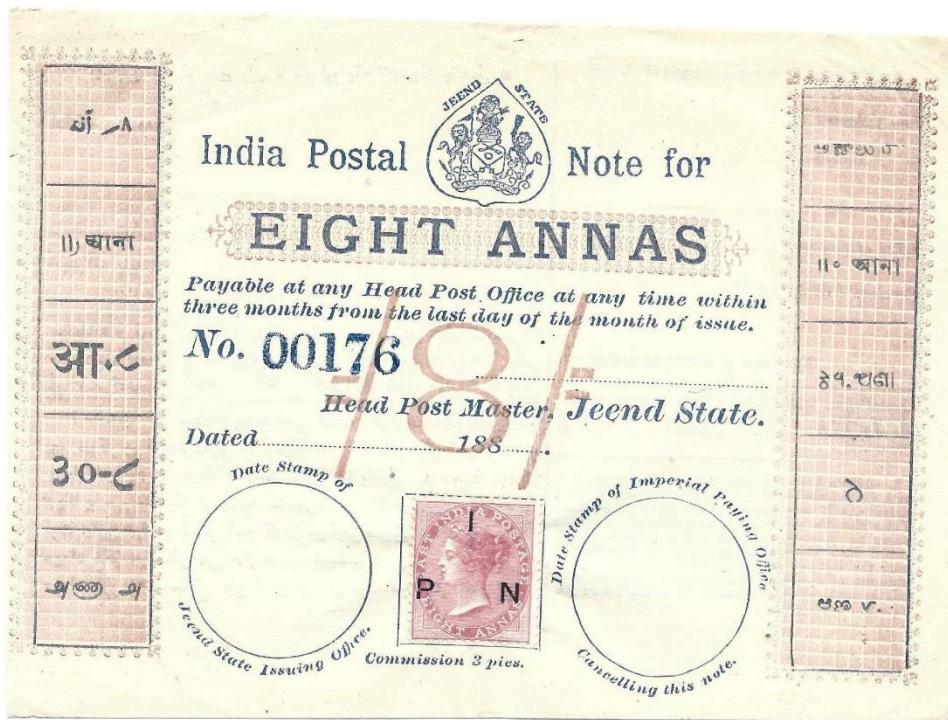


Image Courtesy: Indian Postal Notes 1883-1886 by Jack Harwood, India Post, Volume 46, 2012



Remitter must fill in payee's name and address.

* دوست دھنر والر کو یانے والے کا نام اور دتہ لکھنہ دتنا چاہئیں۔

Payee Name.....

نام

to } Address

५८

Office of payment

ڈاکخانہ جیسا سر اور ہدہ لیا جتا۔

* آنکہ دارا

Received EIGHT ANNAS.

ڈاکخانہ جیسا سر اور ہدہ لیا جتا۔

Signature of Paues named above.

Postal Notes are of 3 values.	Rs. 2 as. 8 Re. 1 As. 8	Printed in black. " " red. " " blue.	Commrsn. anna 1. " " pies 6. " " 3.
--	-------------------------------	--	---

1.—After a Note has been paid, to whomsoever it is paid, Government will not be liable to any further claim. 2.—If any erasure or alteration be made, or if this Note be cut, defaced, or mutilated, or if the stamp be removed, payment will be refused. 3.—A Postal Note lapses at the expiration of three months from the last day of the month of issue; it can only be renewed by payment of a second commission, and so renewed for 3 months more, at the expiration of which period the Note will be forfeited.

دستھطا پانیوالے کے جسکا قام اُپر لکھا گیا

ڈاکخانہ کے نوٹ دو روپیہ آٹھ پانچ آنچھے گھٹیں۔ سیدا چھپے ٹوٹے

نیشن اگر کی قیمت
جے ہو تو چیز ایک (بینہ سرخ چھپے ہوئے
انہے آنے کیلے چھپے ہوئے ۳ پاٹی

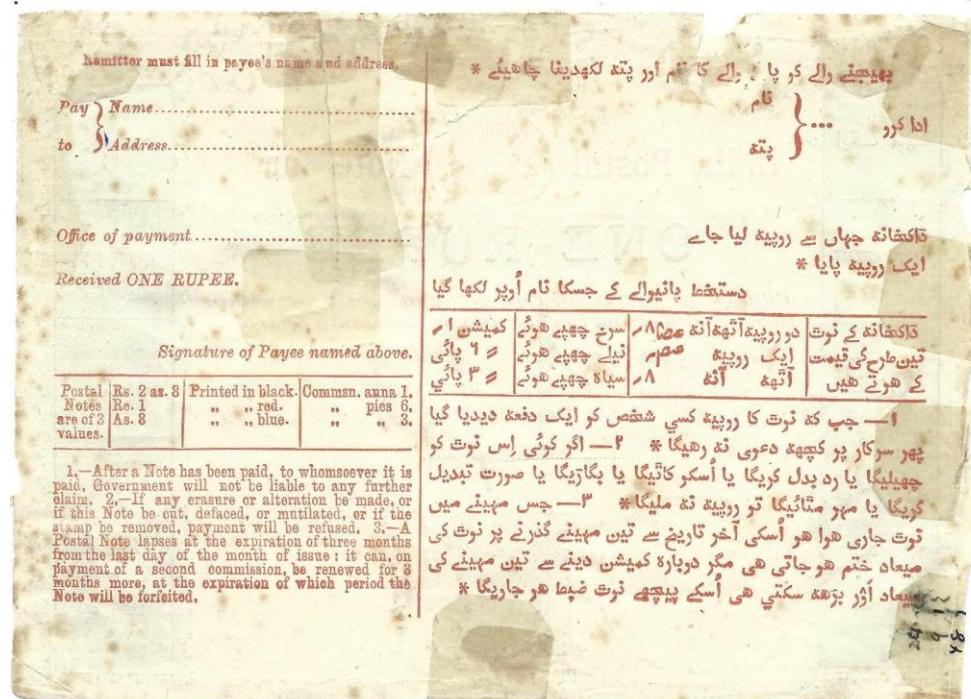
۱۔ جب کہ نوت کاروپیہ کسی شخص کو ایک دفعہ دیدیا گیا

بچوں سرکار پر کچھ دعویٰ نہ رہیں کا * ۲۔ اگر کوئی اس قوت کو جو چلائیں گا دیکھ لے تو اسکو کانٹے میں دیکھا دیا جائے گا دا صوت تبدیل

کوئیگا یا صہر ستائیگا تو دوپتہ نہ ملیگا * ۳— جس مہینے میں

نوت جاری ہوا ہو اسکی آخر ڈاگین سے دین صہیٹے گئے پر نوت کی معماں ختم ہو جاتے، ہی مگر دیوار کھیشیں دیتے ہیں تب صہیٹے کی

میعاد اور بڑہ سکتی ہی اسکے پیچے ذلت ضبط ہو جاوے گا *



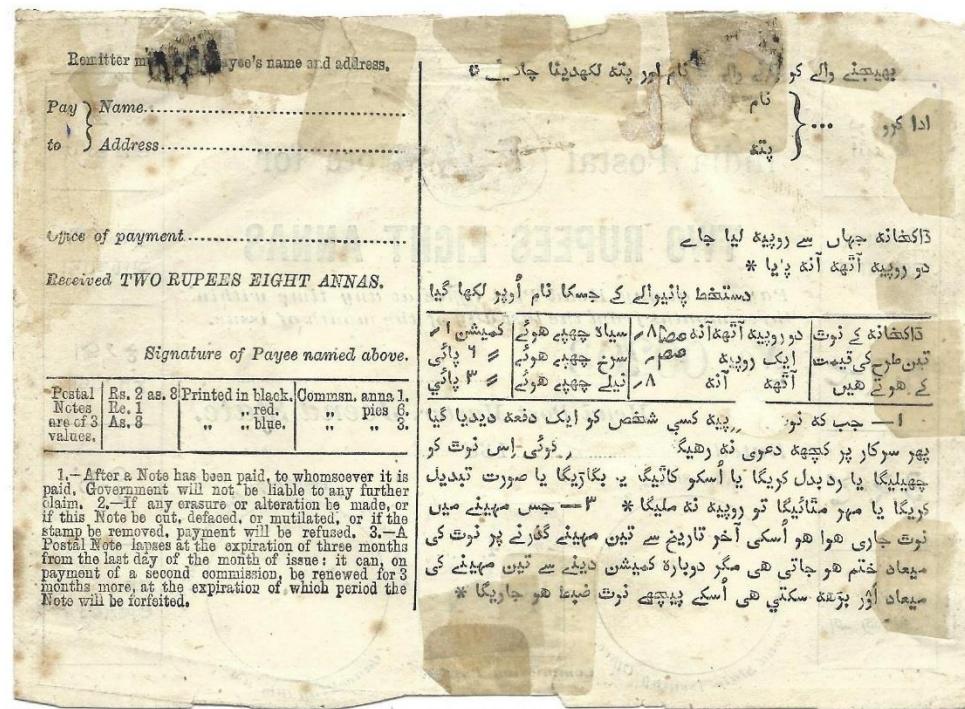
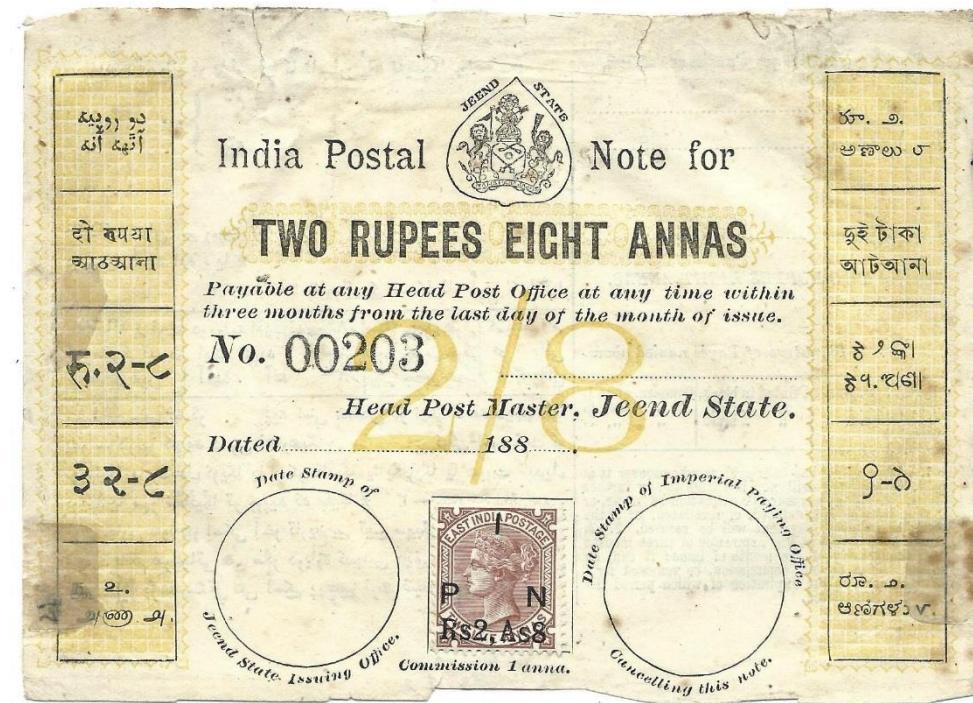






Image Courtesy: Indian Postal Notes 1883-1886 by Jack Harwood, India Post, Volume 46, 2012

India Postal Notes for the Indian Field Force in Egypt

Type 2E

India Postal Notes were sold but not paid, by the Indian Field Force in Egypt in 1885. Only six extant examples of these unissued postal notes are recorded, all of them 1 Rupee denomination. These bear the serial numbers 00092, 00094, 00095, 00210, 00235, and 00238.

These are very similar to the India Postal Note Second Issue of 1883-86, which have the British Coat-of-Arms at the top, but are inscribed "Head Post Master, Indian Field Force, Egypt". They have a 1 Rupee postage stamp affixed to the centre panel between the datestamp circles above the inscription "Commission 6 pies".



POSTAL NOTICE.

CORRESPONDENCE FOR THE INDIAN FIELD FORCE, EGYPT.

An Indian Post Office will accompany the Indian Field Force proceeding on active service to Egypt. This office will be constituted a Head Office, and will be designated the "Indian Field Post Office—Egypt."

2. Correspondence intended for the Indian Field Force, Egypt, should be addressed as follows:—

"A. B.
Regiment, Ship or Office,
Indian Field Force,
EGYPT."

No Post-town should be added to the address, and special care should be taken to insert the Regiment, Battery, Ship or Office with which the addressee is serving.

3. Prepayment of correspondence intended for the Indian Field Force is compulsory.

4. The rate of postage for letters sent from India

to Native Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and men of the Native Army, and also for Camp followers is nine pie

for each letter not exceeding one-half ounce, or 1 one-fifth tola in weight. The Camp followers are either Regimental or belong to the Departments or special Corps named in the margin,* and letters addressed to them must show the Regiment, Department, or Corps to which they are attached. The following specimen addresses are given:—

Regimental Followers.	Departmental Followers.	Special Corps Followers.
KARIM BUKSH, Bhopal, 28th No. N. I., Indian Field Force, EGYPT.	NUR MUHAMMAD, Commissioner Dpt., Indian Field Force, EGYPT.	WALE MUHAMMAD, Camel Driver Corps, Indian Field Force, EGYPT.

5. No British troops are being sent from India to Egypt, but letters addressed to British Soldiers and Seamen, or to any of the privileged class mentioned in clause 190 of the *Indian Postal Guide*, who may be serving in Egypt, will be sent of course at the special rates, subject to the conditions laid down in that clause and the following clauses.

6. Articles intended for persons other than the above will be charged at the ordinary postage rates mentioned opposite to "Egypt" in the Foreign Post Schedule of the *Postal Guide*.

7. Official correspondence for the Indian Field Force will be governed by the same rules as ordinary private correspondence for Egypt. It should be prepaid by service postage labels under the superscription and signature prescribed in clause 353 of the *Postal Guide*.

8. Money orders will be exchanged with the Indian Field Force under the rules governing the exchange of Asiatic money orders, (clauses 261 to 265 of the *Postal Guide*). The Bombay Post Office will be the office of exchange for money orders exchanged with the Indian Field Force.

9. Parcels may be forwarded to the Indian Field Force under the rules governing the despatch of foreign parcels from India. The Bombay Post Office will be the office of exchange for such parcels, which should be addressed in the same way as correspondence.

10. Insured and value-payable articles cannot be received for despatch to the Indian Field Force, Egypt. India Postal Notes will be sold, but not paid, by the Field Post Office.

A. U. FANSHAWE,
Offy. Director General of
the Post Office of India.
CALCUTTA,
20th February 1885.

Indian Postal Orders to be Used in Princely States

When the Postal Convention States like Patiala asked for introduction of the Indian Postal Orders in their state in 1936 & again in 1940, the response of the Indian Post & Telegraph Department was "This department regrets its inability to introduce the system of exchange of Indian Postal Orders with the Patiala State Post Offices for the present. The question may be re-opened after the War when normal conditions prevail."

As per the currently available information, the Indian Postal Orders were never introduced in Princely States.

Introduction of Postal Orders in India

In 1933 December, Rai Bahadur S. C. Gupta sent a letter stating that “Payment of Money Orders constitutes and an important part of the duty of a postman and if by some means we can reduce the number of Money Orders to be paid through postmen without reducing our income on commission, we may effect some saving in the staff of postmen.

For this purpose, I think we may introduce “Indian Postal Orders” on the analogy of “British Postal Orders”, which remitter will have to purchase at a Post Office, transmit at his own cost to the payee, who will have to cash it at the paying Post Office.

The introduction of this scheme may reduce our income on Money Order commission to a certain extent but the savings in dealing with Money Orders, acknowledgements and coupons will perhaps compensate this loss.

As the public will mostly send these Indian Postal Orders with a letter in the same envelope they will practically not be required to pay any extra postage for the transmission of the Indian Postal Orders.”

This proposal was approved for further action in April 1934 by Mr. G. V. Bewoor, Director General of Posts and Telegraph as follows: “With regard to Honourable Member’s decision regarding the introduction of Postal Orders, further enquiries will be undertaken as regards the cost of printing and the cost of accounts and audit as also the different values of the Postal Orders which we need issue and the commission to be charged on each.”

Concerns Raised by Mr. J. B. Taylor to Controller of Currency in May 1934

“Postal Orders: This question has already been taken up by the Post Office and the recommendation of the Committee will be sent to them for their consideration. My own provisional view is that postal orders on the British model are not likely to prove a very successful innovation in this country. Two main considerations underlie the popularity of remittance by cut notes:

- (a) illiteracy, and
- (b) distrust.

As regards the latter, if A wishes to send money to B and is afraid that he may disown the transaction on receipt, remittance by a cut note affords a simple way of defeating him because one-half is sent and the other is not sent until the former has been acknowledged. Equally of course, it would be, possible to send an instrument made payable to the individual himself e.g. a money order, but this requires either delivery at the addressee's house which is expensive or that he should identify himself at a Post Office which is difficult and irritating. For these reasons I am doubtful whether Postal Orders on British lines will prove very popular. In the name of the receiver is filled in, he will not like it and if it is left blank, the remitter will not. All of these difficulties could, I think, be got over if we devised a system whereby Postal orders could be remitted in halves and payment could be made on the missing portion if lost in the same way as with regard to our cut notes before 1927. Our real objection to the cutting of notes was really that it competed with other forms of remittance for which a proper charge is made in relation to the services

rendered; in other words, that by cutting a note and sending it in two portions through the post, a currency note is being put to a purpose for which it was not intended, and is putting Government to loss, both in the Postal and the Currency Departments. This argument does not hold good if a proper charge is made for the service rendered. My provisional view is that Postal Orders which could be sent in two parts (for which purpose they might be issued perforated) could conveniently fill the gap created by the abolition of the practice of cutting notes in a manner which would be decidedly lucrative to the Postal Department. That of course is a matter which they shall have to examine, but I should be glad of your general comments from the currency point of view, the rates of commission suggested by the Committee will, of course, be brought to their notice, but they will have to make a charge commensurate with the services rendered."

After detailed analysis and deliberations, Indian Postal Orders were introduced in India on 1st April, 1935.

Denominations of Indian Postal Orders

As per the records of the Money Orders issued from the Calcutta General Post Office, that the Money Orders for sums not exceeding Rupees 10 comes to about 60%. Based on this statistic the highest denomination of the Indian Postal Order was decided to be Rupees 10.

Design of Indian Postal Orders

The artwork for the design of the Indian Postal Orders was based on that of British Postal Orders. It was produced by the Security Press, Nasik and submitted on 24th August 1934. It incorporated the head of King George V as used on the new postage stamps issued in 1934. This was taken from the first original die engraved by De La Rue in 1911. The design was approved by the Viceroy of India on 26th September 1934. The different Rs. 10 design was approved on 23rd January 1935.

Printing of Indian Postal Orders

The Master, Security Printing had suggested that the same colors may be used for all the four denominations of Indian Postal Orders as this will tend to economy in printing and no confusion is likely to arise as the different denomination values are printed in black against the red body color of the Indian Postal Orders.

The Indian Postal Orders were to be printed on watermarked paper for security reasons.

The expected cost of printing the Indian Postal Orders was Rupees 5 per thousand.

For the sake of facility in counting the number of Indian Postal Orders supplied to or received in any offices or for verification at branches, after being printed, the Indian Postal Orders were to be arranged in small bundles of 100 each enclosed in a wrapper like currency notes and to make one packet of size of 10 small bundles. Each such packet having a label to indicate the number of the small bundles contained therein and the number of the Indian Postal Orders contained in each bundle.

It was proposed that 500,000 of Indian Postal Orders of each denominations should be printed to start with.

The denominations printed in vernacular languages on the Indian Postal Orders were to be printed in the same order as appearing on the currency notes of Rupees 5 denomination.

The Indian Postal Orders were printed at The India Security Press, Nasik Road, earlier known as "Security Printing India" up to 1947.

To manage the proper workload at the Security Printing India, Nasik Road, a plan was provided as below:

- Postmasters in the Bengal, United Provinces & Bombay Postal Circles were to submit their indents on 8th April, 8th July, 8th October & 8th January of each financial year
- Postmasters in the Bihar & Orissa, Punjab & Northwest Frontier & Madras Postal Circles were to submit their indents on 8th May, 8th August, 8th November & 8th February of each financial year
- Postmasters in the Burma & Central Postal Circles were to submit their indents on 8th June, 8th September, 8th December & 8th March of each financial year

Postal Notice Regarding the Introduction of Indian Postal Orders

A text of the Postal Notice regarding the introduction of Indian Postal Orders dated 18th March 1935 by Mr. G. V. Bewoor, Director General of Posts and Telegraph is as follows:

With effect from the 1st April, 1935, a new system of remittance of small amounts not exceeding Rs. 10 by means of Indian Postal Orders will be introduced by the Posts and Telegraphs Department. Indian Postal Orders will be available in the denominations of 8 annas, 1 rupee, 5 rupees and 10 rupees, and the commission chargeable in respect of each Order will be 1 anna.

2. To make up broken amounts, unused postage stamps not exceeding three in number may be affixed on the face of Indian Postal Orders of all denominations except Rs. 10, in the space reserved for the purpose, provided that the total amount payable on the Order shall not exceed Rs. 10 and provided also that a fraction of an anna shall not be included. If any stamps in excess of three in number are affixed on an Indian Postal Order they will not be recognized.

3. Indian Postal Orders for fixed sums, from 8 annas to 10 rupees, will be sold and paid by all Head and Sub Post offices in India and Burma.

4. The purchaser of an Indian Postal Order must, before parting with it, fill in ink the name of the person to whom the amount is to be paid and is recommended to fill in also in ink the name of the office of payment as a precaution in case the Order should be lost or stolen. If the purchaser does not know which post office will be most convenient to the payee he should insert the name of the town, village or district where the payee resides and the Order will then be paid at any Head or Sub Post office in the locality named. If the sender desires that payment should be made through a bank, he should cross the Order in ink in the way in which it is usual to cross cheques.

5. Before a Postal Order can be paid, the name of the payee and the name of the office of payment must be filled in and the order must be properly receipted. If a Postal Order be crossed, payment will be made only through a Bank. No Indian Postal Order will be paid unless there is a stamp affixed to the body of the Order, unless the name of the payee is inserted in the body of the Order. A crossed Indian Postal Order may, if so desired, be paid into the payee's savings bank account in the Post Office Savings Bank.

Banks which have entered into an agreement with the Post Office, particulars of which may be

POSTAL NOTICE.

Introduction of Indian Postal Orders.

With effect from the 1st April, 1935, a new system of remittance of small amounts not exceeding Rs. 10 by means of Indian Postal Orders will be introduced by the Posts and Telegraphs Department. Indian Postal Orders will be available in the denominations of 8 annas, 1 rupee, 5 rupees and 10 rupees, and the commission chargeable in respect of each Order will be 1 anna.

2. To make up broken amounts, unused postage stamps not exceeding three in number may be affixed on the face of Indian Postal Orders of all denominations except Rs. 10, in the space reserved for the purpose, provided that the total amount payable on the Order shall not exceed Rs. 10 and provided also that a fraction of an anna shall not be included. If any stamps in excess of three in number are affixed on an Indian Postal Order, they will not be recognized.

3. Indian Postal Orders for fixed sums, from 8 annas to 10 rupees, will be sold and paid by all Head and Sub Post offices in India and Burma.

4. The purchaser of an Indian Postal Order must, before parting with it, fill in ink the name of the person to whom the amount is to be paid and is recommended to fill in also in ink the name of the office of payment as a precaution in case the Order should be lost or stolen. If the purchaser does not know which post office will be most convenient to the payee he should insert the name of the town, village or district where the payee resides and the Order will then be paid at any Head or Sub Post office in the locality named. If the sender desires that payment should be made through a bank, he should cross the Order in ink in the way in which it is usual to cross cheques.

5. Before a Postal Order can be paid, the name of the payee and the name of the office of payment must be filled in and the order must be properly receipted. If a Postal Order be crossed, payment will be made only through a Bank. No Indian Postal Order will be paid unless there is a stamp affixed to the body of the Order, unless the name of the payee is inserted in the body of the Order. A crossed Indian Postal Order may, if so desired, be paid into the payee's savings bank account in the Post Office Savings Bank.

6. Banks which have entered into an agreement with the Post Office, particulars of which may be ascertained on application to the Postmaster-General, are entitled to obtain immediate payment of all Postal Orders presented by them, whether or not such orders have been receipted by the payee and without regard to the office at which they may have been made payable.

7. An application for money in respect of a counterfeited, lost or defrauded Indian Postal Order must be accompanied by the Order. If the counterfeited cannot be produced, the serial number of the Order must be quoted, otherwise no claim will be entertained.

8. If any erasure or alteration be made, or if the Order is not stamped or signed by the postmaster of the issuing office, or if the Order is so defaced or mutilated, payment may be refused on any of these grounds and no refund of the value of the Order will be granted.

9. If an Indian Postal Order is not presented for payment within three months from the day on which it was issued, a second commission of one anna will be charged on the day of issue, and the amount will be paid to the order of the payee.

10. The purchaser of an Indian Postal Order can obtain repayment of its value (but not the commission), on presenting the Order and the counterfeited at the post office from which the Order was purchased. Such an Order may be used for payment through a Bank, the payee must first cancel the counterfeited across the face of the Order the words "Please pay cash" and adding his initials.

11. After an Indian Postal Order has once been paid to whomsoever it is paid, the Post Office will not be liable for any further claim.

NEW DELHI,
The 18th March 1935.
G. V. BEWOOR,
Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs.

GIPD-42 Postal—18-3-35—1,00,000.

ascertained on application to the Postmaster-General, are entitled to obtain immediate payment of all Postal Orders presented by them, whether or not such orders have been received by the payee and without regard to the office at which they may have been made payable.

6. The purchaser of an Indian Postal Order should fill in the particulars for which provision has been made on the counterfoil, which he should then tear off and retain. Although the possession of a counterfoil does not entitle the holder to compensation it facilitates enquiry in the event of the Order being lost.

7. All applications for enquiry in respect of miscarriage, loss or destruction of Indian Postal Orders must be accompanied by the counterfoil. If the counterfoil cannot be produced, the serial number of the Order must be quoted, otherwise no claim will be entertained.

8. If any erasure or alteration be made, or if the Order is not stamped or signed by the postmaster of the issuing office, or if the Order is cut, defaced or mutilated, payment may be refused on any of these grounds and no refund of the value of the Order will be granted.

9. If an Indian Postal Order is not presented for payment within three months from the last day of the month of issue, a second commission of one anna will be charged which must be paid in postage stamps affixed to the back of the Order.

Indian Postal Orders presented for payment more than six months after the last day of the month of issue will not be paid.

10. The purchaser of an Indian Postal Order can obtain repayment of its value (but not the commission), on presenting the Order and the counterfoil at the post office from which the Order was purchased. Should the Order have been crossed for payment through a Bank, the purchaser must first cancel the crossing by writing across the face of the Order the words "Please pay cash" and adding his initials.

11. After an Indian Postal Order has once been paid to whomsoever it is paid, the Post Office will not be liable for any further claim.

Rules Regarding Indian Postal Orders

The Accountant General, Posts & Telegraph was responsible for the stock, custody, and issue of the Indian Postal Orders and also for the audit of all transactions related to them.

Very detailed rules regarding Indian Postal Orders related to below topics were issued:

- Detailed instructions regarding selling & paying Indian Postal Orders
- Procedure for applying additional postage stamps to increase the value of the Indian Postal Orders
- How to identify & protect against fraud
- How to order Indian Postal Orders
- Safely maintaining the stock of Indian Postal Orders
- Different forms & their formats to record transactions related to selling & cashing Indian Postal Orders
- Maintaining monthly statements of Indian Postal Orders sold, paid and in stock
- Procedure to deal with lost, stolen or mutilated Indian Postal Orders by the customer
- Procedures to deal with Indian Postal Orders lost or stolen from the stock of the Post Office
- Rules regarding unclaimed Indian Postal Orders
- Auditing of the transactions & maintaining of audit records
- Auditing of unsold, lost, stolen or mutilated Indian Postal Orders

First Indent of Indian Postal Orders

Below number of Indian Postal Order "Specimens" were printed:

ID	Indian Postal Order Denomination	Specimens Printed
1	8 Annas	300
2	1 Rupee	300
3	5 Rupees	6,000
4	10 Rupees	300

These specimens of the Indian Postal Orders were distributed across the country. They were intended to be exhibited prominently on the notice board of each Head Post Office & Sub-Post Offices in such a manner that they may not be easily spoiled or removed. One Specimen Indian Postal Order of each denomination was to be exhibited in the case of each Head Post Office while only one Specimen of Indian Postal Order of Rupees 5 denomination to be put up on the notice board of each Sub-Post Office.

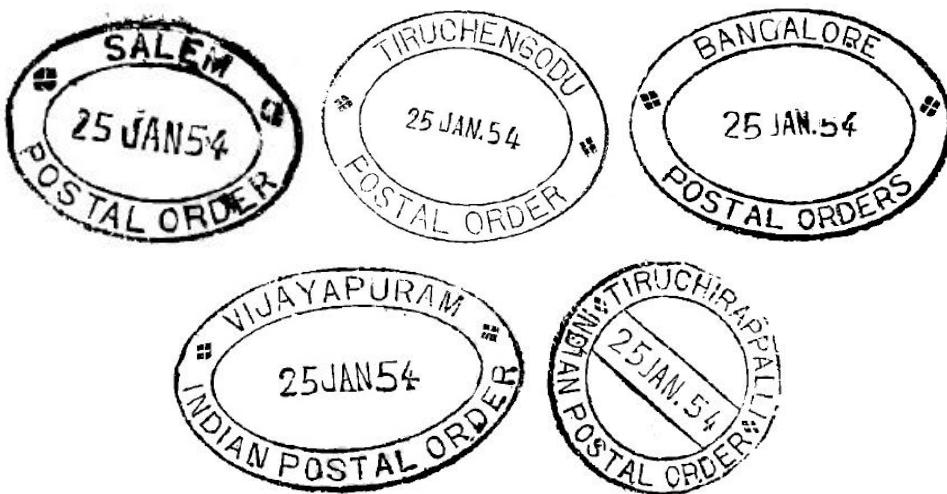
On 28th February 1935, following quantities of Indian Postal Orders were dispatched:

ID	Post Office Circle	Quantity Supplied of Each Denomination of Indian Postal Order
1	Delhi	100,000
2	Calcutta	50,000
3	Madras	50,000
4	Nagpur	50,000

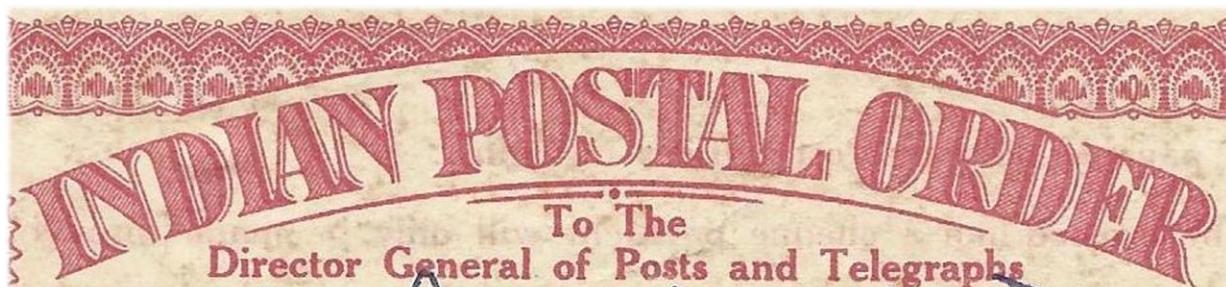
In the Indian Post Office Guide dated September 1939, the Rule 292A related to the Indian Postal Order states that "Indian Postal Orders for fixed sums from 8 Annas to 10 Rupees are sold and paid by all Head and Sub-Offices in India". The Postmaster had to indent for their quarterly supplies of Indian Postal Orders through their respective Audit Offices located at Calcutta, Delhi, Madras and Nagpur.

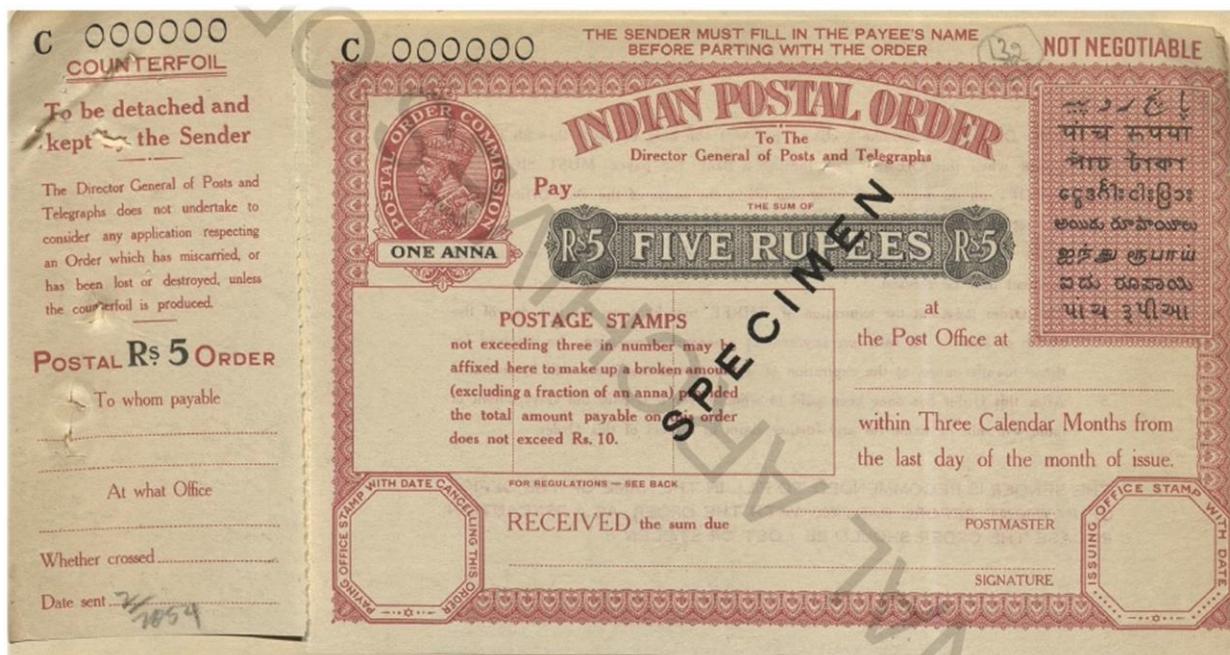
Postal Ink Handstamps Used on Indian Postal Orders

In early days, there were efforts made to make sure that a postal ink handstamp of the same format to be used on Indian Postal Orders at each post office. But this never got implemented. A very large number of different designs of the postal ink handstamps were used on Postal Orders. Often it is seen that a postal ink handstamp used for Money Orders are used on the Postal Orders. Some of the examples are shown below:

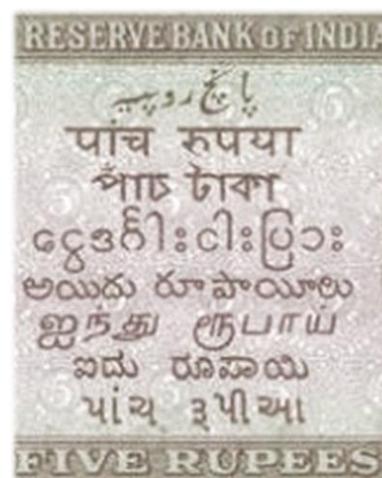


Information	<p>King George V (KGV): Validity of the Indian Postal Order was for 3 months. On payment of a commission for the second time, the validity of the Indian Postal Order can be extended by additional 3 months.</p> <p>King George VI (KGVI): Validity of the Indian Postal Order was for 6 months. On payment of a commission for the second time, the validity of the Indian Postal Order can be extended by additional 6 months.</p>
Regulations	
Years of Issue	1 st April 1935 - 1947
Watermark	KGVI: Pattern of a Star in the Center Surrounded by Text 'GOVT' 'INDIA' 'GOVT' 'INDIA' Repeated
Printer	None
Size	Typical size without the counterfoil is 110 x 165 mm ²
	Typical size with the counterfoil is 110 x 220 mm ²
Denominations	Many Denominations.
	<p>KGV: To make up broken amounts, unused postage stamps not exceeding three in number may be affixed on the face of Indian Postal Orders of all denominations except Rs. 10, in the space reserved for the purpose, provided that the total amount payable on the Order shall not exceed Rs. 10 and provided also that a fraction of an anna shall not be included. If any stamps in excess of three in number are affixed on an Indian Postal Order they will not be recognized.</p> <p>KGVI: To make up broken amounts, unused postage stamps not exceeding two in number or seven annas in total value may be affixed excluding the a fraction of an anna.</p>
Comments	





Commission Value	Postal Order Value	Color	Serial Number Prefix	Confirmed
1 Anna	8 Annas	Pink	A	Image
1 Anna	1 Rupee	Pink	B	Image
1 Anna	5 Rupees	Pink	C	Image
1 Anna	10 Rupees	Pink	D	Image



Note: The denominations printed in vernacular languages on the Indian Postal Orders were printed in the same order as appearing on the currency notes of Rupees 5 denomination.

A 000000COUNTERFOILTo be detached and
kept by the Sender

The Director General of Posts and Telegraphs does not undertake to consider any application respecting an Order which has miscarried, or has been lost or destroyed, unless the counterfoil is produced.

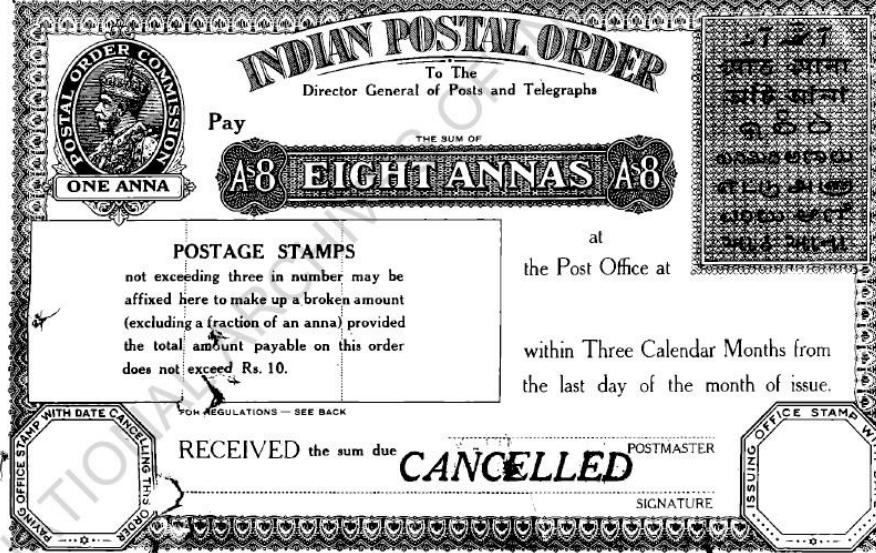
POSTAL AS 8 ORDER

To whom payable

At what Office

Whether crossed

Date sent

A 000000THE SENDER MUST FILL IN THE PAYEE'S NAME
BEFORE PARTING WITH THE ORDER**NOT NEGOTIABLE**at
the Post Office atwithin Three Calendar Months from
the last day of the month of issue.**B 000000**COUNTERFOILTo be detached and
kept by the Sender

The Director General of Posts and Telegraphs does not undertake to consider any application respecting an Order which has miscarried, or has been lost or destroyed, unless the counterfoil is produced.

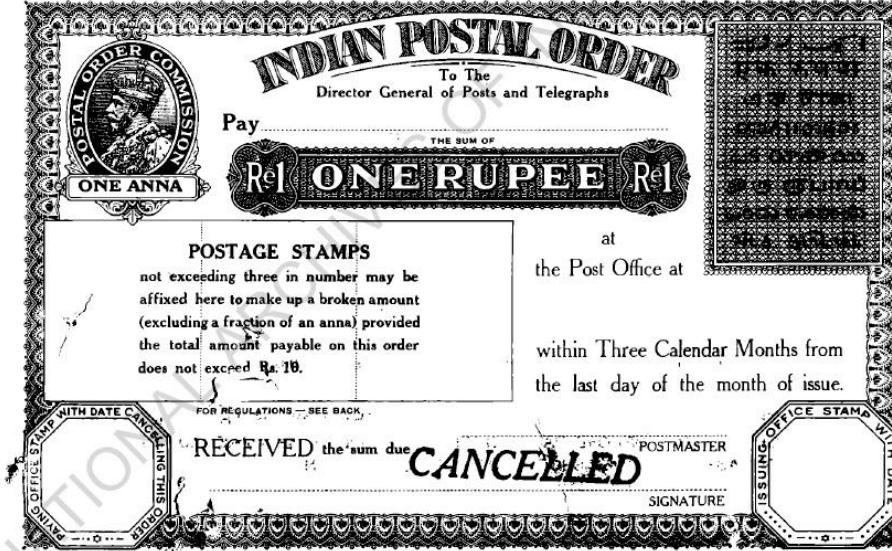
POSTAL Re1 ORDER

To whom payable

At what Office

Whether crossed

Date sent

B 000000THE SENDER MUST FILL IN THE PAYEE'S NAME
BEFORE PARTING WITH THE ORDER**NOT NEGOTIABLE**at
the Post Office atwithin Three Calendar Months from
the last day of the month of issue.

D 000000

COUNTERFOIL

To be detached and kept by the Sender

The Director General of Posts and Telegraphs does not undertake to consider any application respecting an Order which has miscarried, or has been lost or destroyed, unless the counterfoil is produced.

POSTAL Rs 10 ORDER

To whom payable

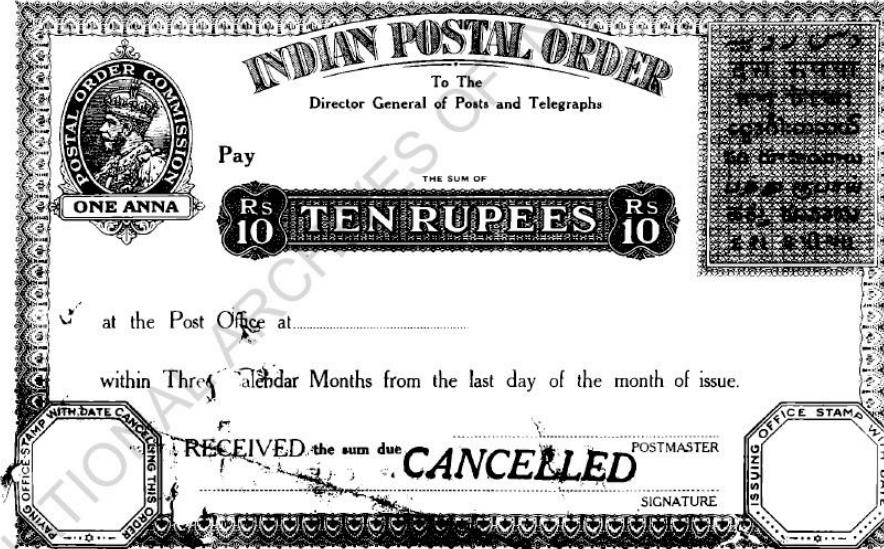
At what Office

Whether crossed

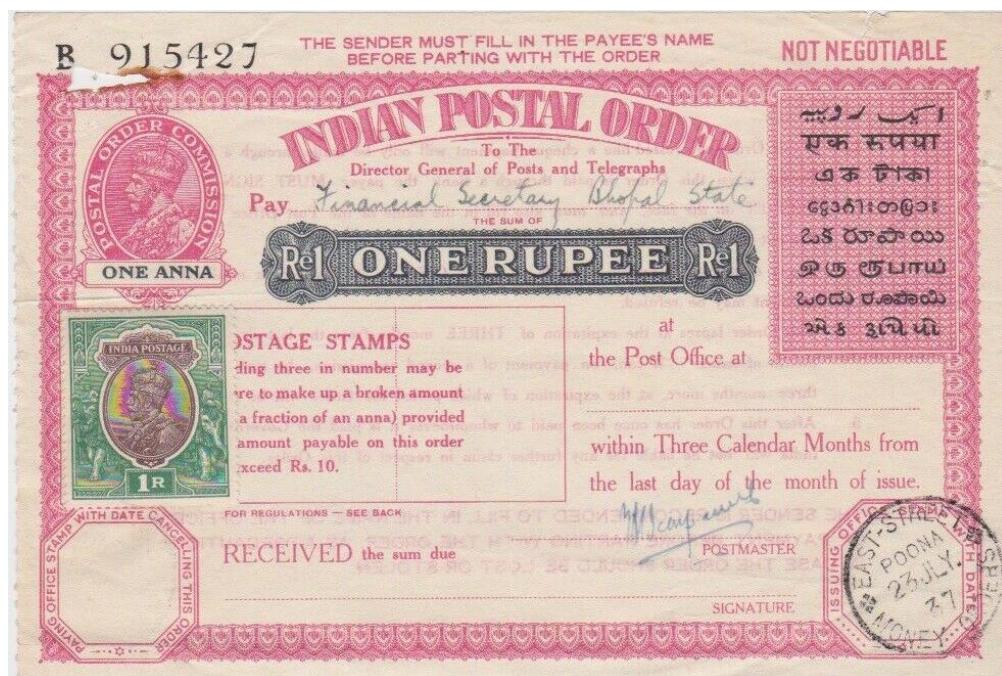
Date sent

D 000000

THE SENDER MUST FILL IN THE PAYEE'S NAME BEFORE PARTING WITH THE ORDER



Note: The design of Postal Order of 10 Rupees is **different** than the other denominations, as maximum value that was allowed for a Postal Order was 10 Rupees, so the box to apply additional postage stamps was removed from the design of the Postal Order of 10 Rupees.



King George V

Language Panel in Right
Serial Number: 1 Place, Top Right

Type 7

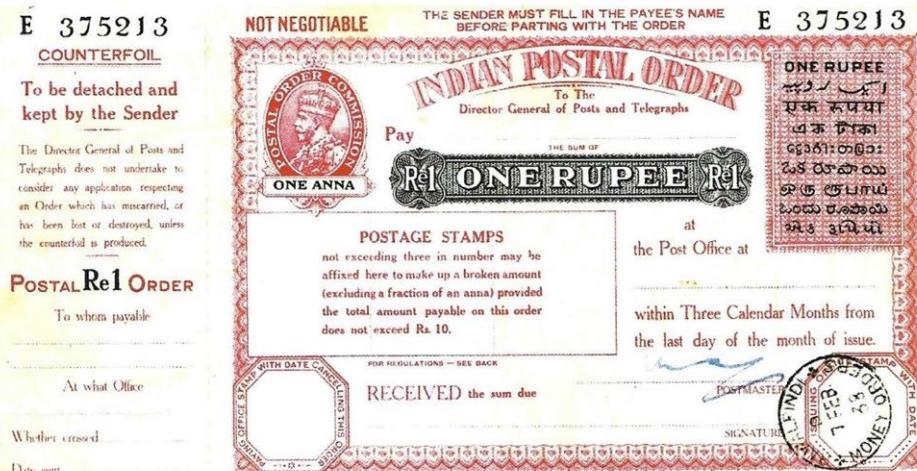
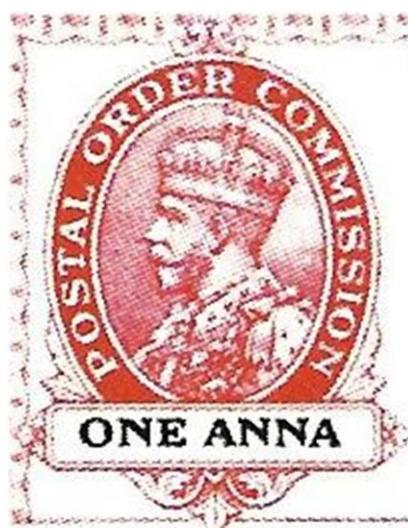


Image Courtesy: Postal Stationery of British India 1856-1947 by Pratisad Neurgaonkar

Note that there were subtle design changes made compared to the previous design e.g. in the language panel & moving serial number from left corner to the right corner etc.

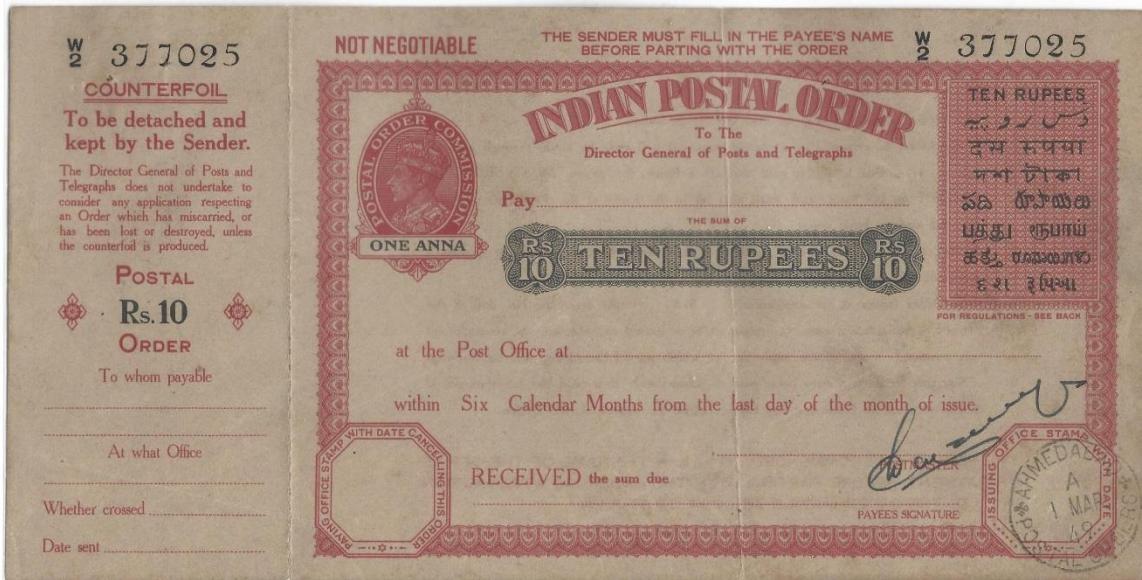
Commission Value	Postal Order Value	Color	Serial Number Prefix	Confirmed
1 Anna	1 Rupee	Pink	E	Image



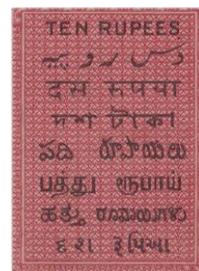
King George VI

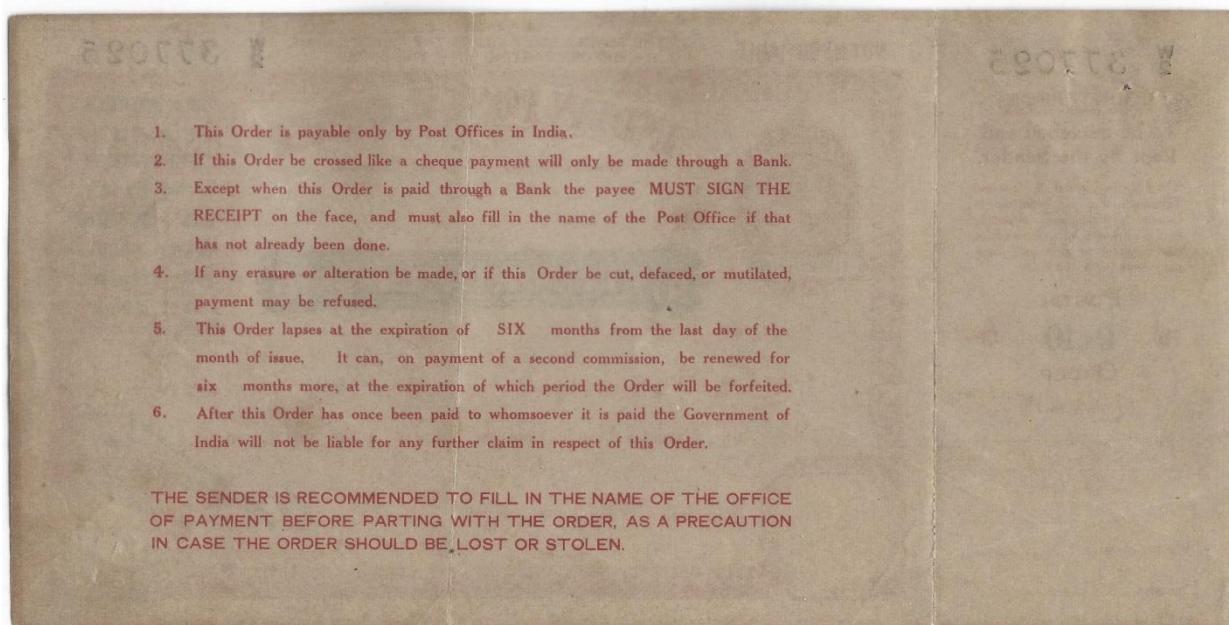
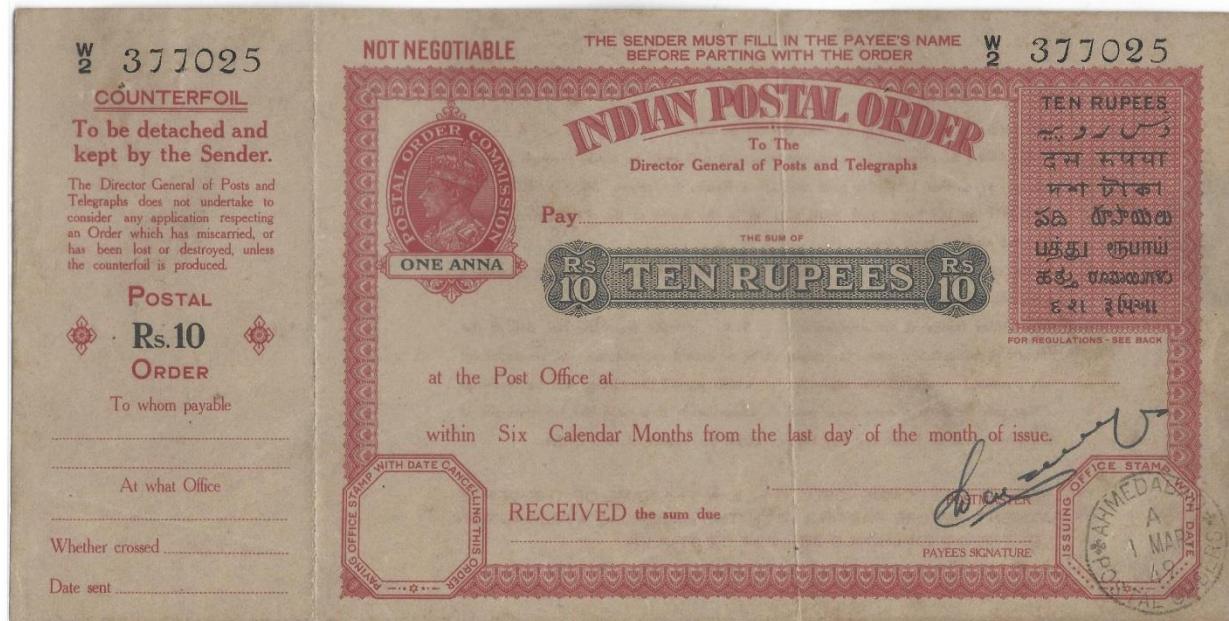
Language Panel in Right
Serial Number: 1 Place, Top Right

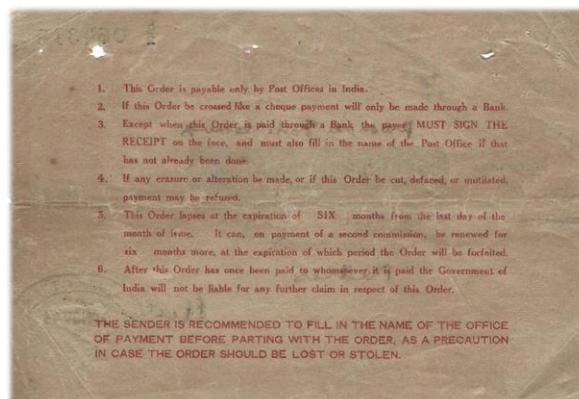
Type 10



Commission Value	Postal Order Value	Color	Serial Number Prefix	Confirmed
1 Anna	8 Annas	Pink	A	
1 Anna	1 Rupee	Pink	B	
1 Anna	1 Rupee 8 Annas	Pink	C	
1 Anna	2 Rupees	Pink	D	
1 Anna	2 Rupees 8 Annas	Pink	E	
1 Anna	3 Rupees	Pink	F	
1 Anna	3 Rupees 8 Annas	Pink	G	
1 Anna	4 Rupees	Pink	H	
1 Anna	4 Rupees 8 Annas	Pink	J	
1 Anna	5 Rupees	Pink	K	
1 Anna	5 Rupees 8 Annas	Pink	L	
1 Anna	6 Rupees	Pink	M	
1 Anna	6 Rupees 8 Annas	Pink	N	
1 Anna	7 Rupees	Pink	P	
1 Anna	7 Rupees 8 Annas	Pink	Q	
1 Anna	8 Rupees	Pink	R	
1 Anna	8 Rupees 8 Annas	Pink	S	
1 Anna	9 Rupees	Pink	T	
1 Anna	9 Rupees 8 Annas	Pink	V	
1 Anna	10 Rupees	Pink	W (Fractional)	Image







Commission Value	Postal Order Value	Color	Serial Number Prefix	Confirmed
1 Anna	8 Annas	Pink	A	Image
1 Anna	1 Rupee	Pink	B (Fractional)	Yes
1 Anna	1 Rupee 8 Annas	Pink	C	
1 Anna	2 Rupees	Pink	D (Fractional & Non-Fractional)	Image
1 Anna	2 Rupees 8 Annas	Pink	E	
1 Anna	3 Rupees	Pink	F	Image
1 Anna	3 Rupees 8 Annas	Pink	G	
1 Anna	4 Rupees	Pink	H	
1 Anna	4 Rupees 8 Annas	Pink	J	
1 Anna	5 Rupees	Pink	K	Image
1 Anna	5 Rupees 8 Annas	Pink	L	Image
1 Anna	6 Rupees	Pink	M	
1 Anna	6 Rupees 8 Annas	Pink	N	
1 Anna	7 Rupees	Pink	P	
1 Anna	7 Rupees 8 Annas	Pink	Q	
1 Anna	8 Rupees	Pink	R	
1 Anna	8 Rupees 8 Annas	Pink	S	
1 Anna	9 Rupees	Pink	T	
1 Anna	9 Rupees 8 Annas	Pink	V	
1 Anna	10 Rupees	Pink	W	



King George VI

Language Panel in Center
Serial Number: 1 Place, Top Right

Type 11

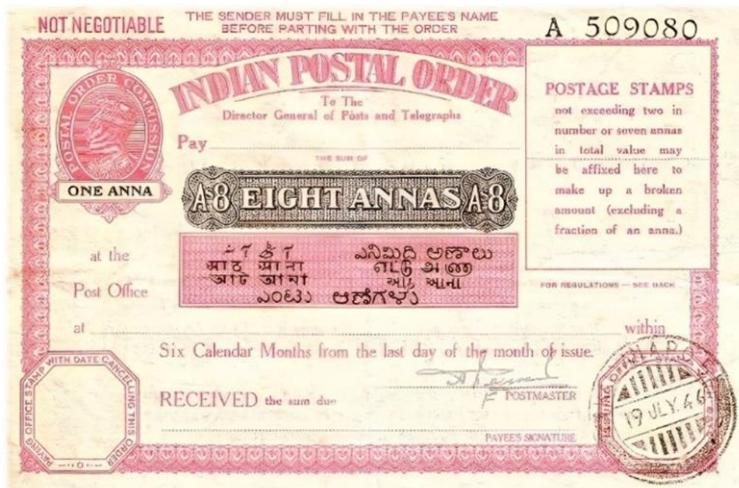
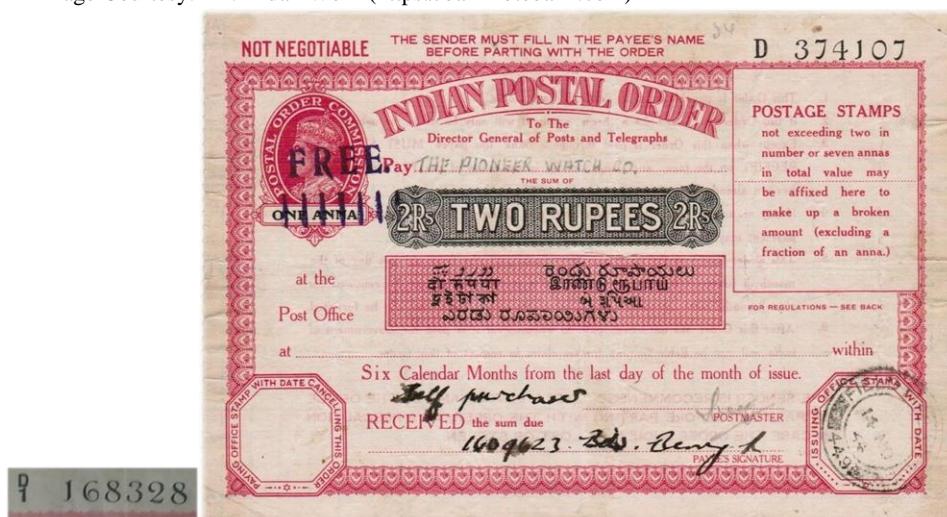


Image Courtesy: Mr. Aidan Work (<https://banknotebank.com>)



King George VI

Language Panel in Center
Serial Number: 1 Place, Top Right

Type 11

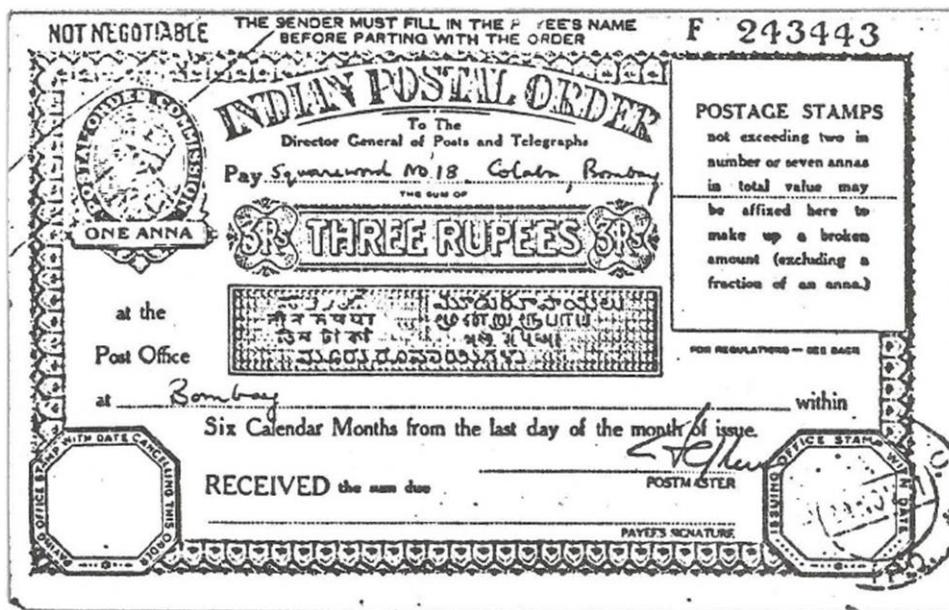


Image Courtesy: India Post, Volume 17, 1983

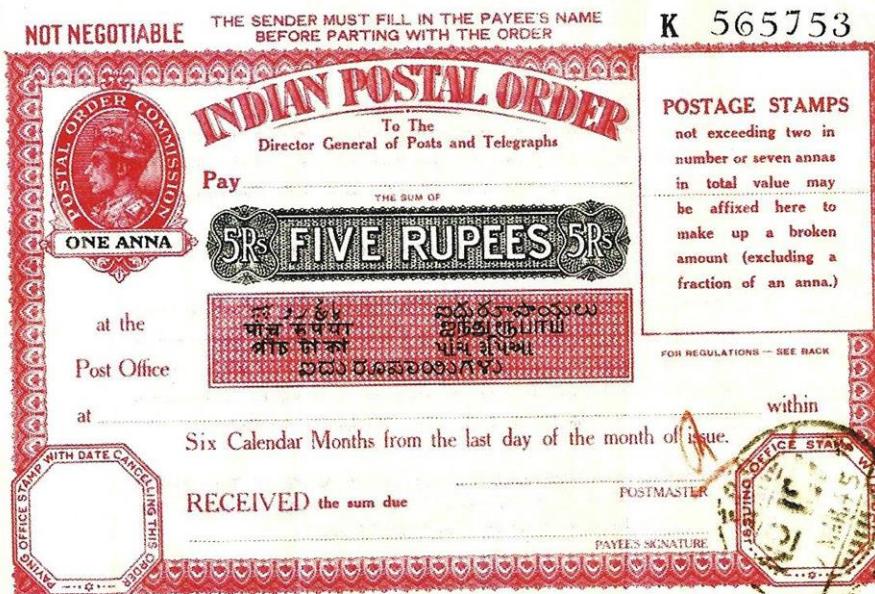


Image Courtesy: Postal Stationery of British India 1856-1947 by Pratisad Neurgaonkar

During the Second World War time in 1944, as the demand for certain denominations of the Postal Orders was low, these higher denomination Postal Orders were overprinted with lower denominations to meet the required demand.

Commission Value	Postal Order Value	Color	Serial Number Prefix	Confirmed
1 Anna	8 Annas on 5 Rupees 8 Annas	Pink		
1 Anna	8 Annas on 6 Rupees 8 Annas	Pink		
1 Anna	8 Annas on 7 Rupees 8 Annas	Pink		
1 Anna	8 Annas on 8 Rupees 8 Annas	Pink		
1 Anna	8 Annas on 9 Rupees 8 Annas	Pink		
1 Anna	1 Rupee on 6 Rupees	Pink		
1 Anna	1 Rupee on 7 Rupees	Pink		
1 Anna	5 Rupees on 8 Rupees	Pink		
1 Anna	5 Rupees on 9 Rupees	Pink		

Information	The validity of the Indian Postal Order was for 6 months. On payment of a commission for the second time, the validity of the Indian Postal Order can be extended by additional 6 months. Commission charged was based on value of the Postal Order.
Regulations	
Years of Issue	1947 - 1988
Watermark	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pattern of a Star in the center surrounded by text “GOVT” “INDIA” “GOVT” “INDIA” is repeated Text “GOVT OF INDIA” is repeated Pattern of 4 Ashok Stambhas connected together is repeated
Printer	None
Size	<p>Typical size without the counterfoil is 110 x 165 mm²</p> <p>Typical size with the counterfoil is 110 x 220 mm²</p>
Denominations	<p>Many Denominations.</p> <p>Broken amounts may be made up by affixing unused Indian Postal Stamps, not exceeding four in number on the face of the Indian Postal Orders or where the space on that side is not adequate on the reverse thereof; provided that the total of stamps affixed on each order shall not exceed three rupees and the total amount payable on the order shall not exceed one hundred rupees.</p>
Comments	





Watermark: ????

Commission Value	Postal Order Value	Color	Serial Number Prefix	Confirmed
1 Anna	8 Annas	Pink	A	Image
1 Anna	1 Rupee	Pink	B	
1 Anna	1 Rupee 8 Annas	Pink	C	
1 Anna	2 Rupees	Pink	D	
1 Anna	2 Rupees 8 Annas	Pink	E	
1 Anna	3 Rupees	Pink	F	
1 Anna	3 Rupees 8 Annas	Pink	G	
1 Anna	4 Rupees	Pink	H	
1 Anna	4 Rupees 8 Annas	Pink	J	
1 Anna	5 Rupees	Pink	K	
1 Anna	5 Rupees 8 Annas	Pink	L	
1 Anna	6 Rupees	Pink	M	
1 Anna	6 Rupees 8 Annas	Pink	N	
1 Anna	7 Rupees	Pink	P	
1 Anna	7 Rupees 8 Annas	Pink	Q	
1 Anna	8 Rupees	Pink	R	
1 Anna	8 Rupees 8 Annas	Pink	S	
1 Anna	9 Rupees	Pink	T	
1 Anna	9 Rupees 8 Annas	Pink	V	
1 Anna	10 Rupees	Pink	W	

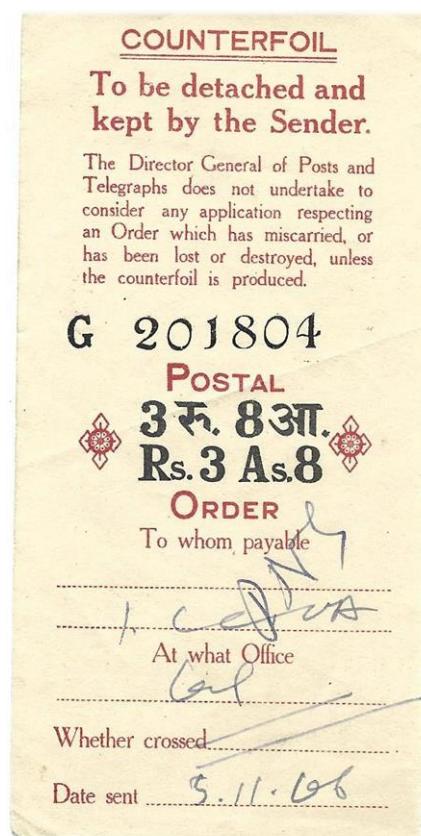
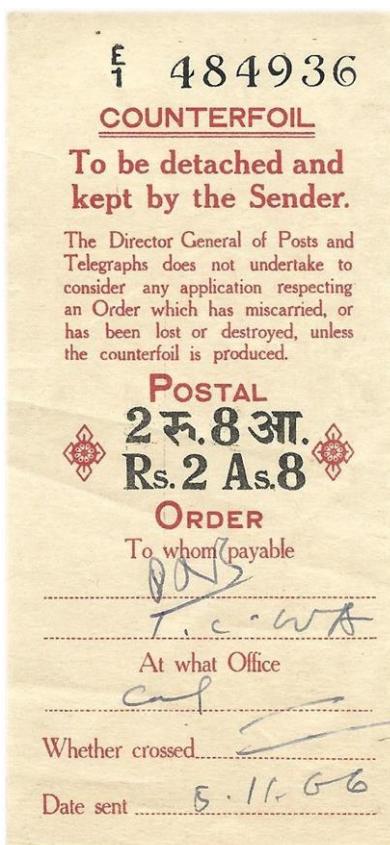




Watermark: Pattern of a Star in the center surrounded by text “GOVT” “INDIA” “GOVT” “INDIA” is repeated

Commission Value	Postal Order Value	Color	Serial Number Prefix	Confirmed
1 Anna	8 Annas		A	
1 Anna	1 Rupee		B	
1 Anna	1 Rupee 8 Annas		C	
1 Anna	2 Rupees		D	
1 Anna	2 Rupees 8 Annas		E (Fractional)	Counterfoil
1 Anna	3 Rupees		F	
1 Anna	3 Rupees 8 Annas		G	Counterfoil
1 Anna	4 Rupees		H	
1 Anna	4 Rupees 8 Annas	Pink	J	Yes
	5 Rupees		K	
	5 Rupees 8 Annas		L	
	6 Rupees		M	
	6 Rupees 8 Annas		N	
	7 Rupees		P	
	7 Rupees 8 Annas		Q	
	8 Rupees		R	
	8 Rupees 8 Annas		S	
	9 Rupees		T	
	9 Rupees 8 Annas		V	
	10 Rupees		W	



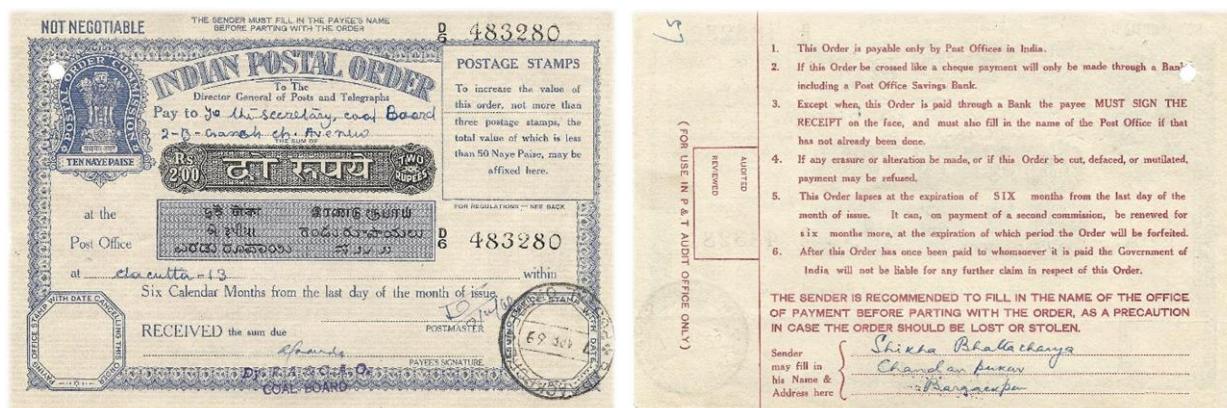




Watermark: Pattern of a Star in the center surrounded by text "GOVT" "INDIA" "GOVT" "INDIA" is repeated

Commission Value	Postal Order Value	Color	Serial Number Prefix	Confirmed
5 Naye Paise	50 Naye Paise	Blue	A	Image
5 Naye Paise	1 Rupee	Blue	B	Image
5 Naye Paise	1 Rupee 50 Naye Paise	Blue	C	Yes
5 Naye Paise	2 Rupees	Blue	D	Image
	2 Rupees 50 Naye Paise	Blue	E	
	3 Rupees	Blue	F	
	3 Rupees 50 Naye Paise	Blue	G	
	4 Rupees	Blue	H	
	4 Rupees 50 Naye Paise	Blue	J	
	5 Rupees	Blue	K	
	5 Rupees 50 Naye Paise	Blue	L	
	6 Rupees	Blue	M	
	6 Rupees 50 Naye Paise	Blue	N	
	7 Rupees	Blue	P	
	7 Rupees 50 Naye Paise	Blue	Q	
	8 Rupees	Blue	R	
	8 Rupees 50 Naye Paise	Blue	S	
	9 Rupees	Blue	T	
	9 Rupees 50 Naye Paise	Blue	V	
	10 Rupees	Blue	W	





Watermark: Pattern of a Star in the center surrounded by text "GOVT" "INDIA" "GOVT" "INDIA" is repeated

Commission Value	Postal Order Value	Color	Serial Number Prefix Fractional Format	Confirmed
10 Naye Paise	50 Naye Paise	Blue	A	
10 Naye Paise	1 Rupee	Blue	B	
10 Naye Paise	1 Rupee 50 Naye Paise	Blue	C	
10 Naye Paise	2 Rupees	Blue	D	Yes
10 Naye Paise	2 Rupees 50 Naye Paise	Blue	E	
10 Naye Paise	3 Rupees	Blue	F	
10 Naye Paise	3 Rupees 50 Naye Paise	Blue	G	
10 Naye Paise	4 Rupees	Blue	H	
10 Naye Paise	4 Rupees 50 Naye Paise	Blue	J	
10 Naye Paise	5 Rupees	Blue	K	
10 Naye Paise	5 Rupees 50 Naye Paise	Blue	L	
10 Naye Paise	6 Rupees	Blue	M	
10 Naye Paise	6 Rupees 50 Naye Paise	Blue	N	
10 Naye Paise	7 Rupees	Blue	P	
10 Naye Paise	7 Rupees 50 Naye Paise	Blue	Q	
10 Naye Paise	8 Rupees	Blue	R	
10 Naye Paise	8 Rupees 50 Naye Paise	Blue	S	
10 Naye Paise	9 Rupees	Blue	T	
10 Naye Paise	9 Rupees 50 Naye Paise	Blue	V	
10 Naye Paise	10 Rupees	Blue	W	Image

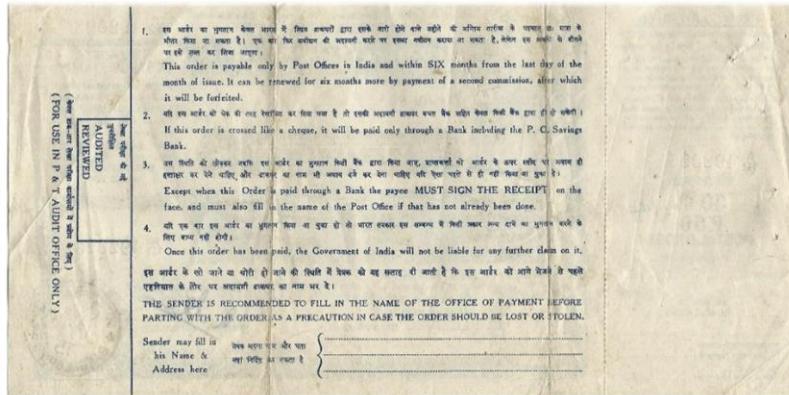


Rupees & Paise

Language Panel in Center

Serial Number: 2 Places

Type 40



Watermarks:

- Pattern of a Star in the center surrounded by text “GOVT” “INDIA” “GOVT” “INDIA” is repeated
 - Text “GOVT OF INDIA” is repeated

Commission Value	Postal Order Value	Color	Serial Number Prefix Fractional Format	Confirmed
10 Paise	50 Paise	Blue	A	Yes
10 Paise	1 Rupee	Blue	B	Image
10 Paise	1 Rupee 50 Paise	Blue	C	
10 Paise	2 Rupees	Blue	D	Yes
10 Paise	2 Rupees 50 Paise	Blue	E	Yes
10 Paise	3 Rupees	Blue	F	Yes
10 Paise	3 Rupees 50 Paise	Blue	G	
10 Paise	4 Rupees	Blue	H	Yes
10 Paise	4 Rupees 50 Paise	Blue	J	
10 Paise	5 Rupees	Blue	K	Yes
10 Paise	5 Rupees 50 Paise	Blue	L	
10 Paise	6 Rupees	Blue	M	Yes
10 Paise	6 Rupees 50 Paise	Blue	N	
10 Paise	7 Rupees	Blue	P	Yes
10 Paise	7 Rupees 50 Paise	Blue	Q	
10 Paise	8 Rupees	Blue	R	Yes
10 Paise	8 Rupees 50 Paise	Blue	S	
10 Paise	9 Rupees	Blue	T	Yes
10 Paise	9 Rupees 50 Paise	Blue	V	
	10 Rupees	Blue	W	
	20 Rupees	Purple	AA	
	30 Rupees	Green	BB	
	40 Rupees	Dark Brown	CC	
	50 Rupees	Red	DD	
	100 Rupees	Orange	EE	

Rupees & Paise

Language Panel in Center
Serial Number: 2 Places

Type 40



Rupees & Paise

Language Panel in Center

Serial Number: 2 Places

Type 40



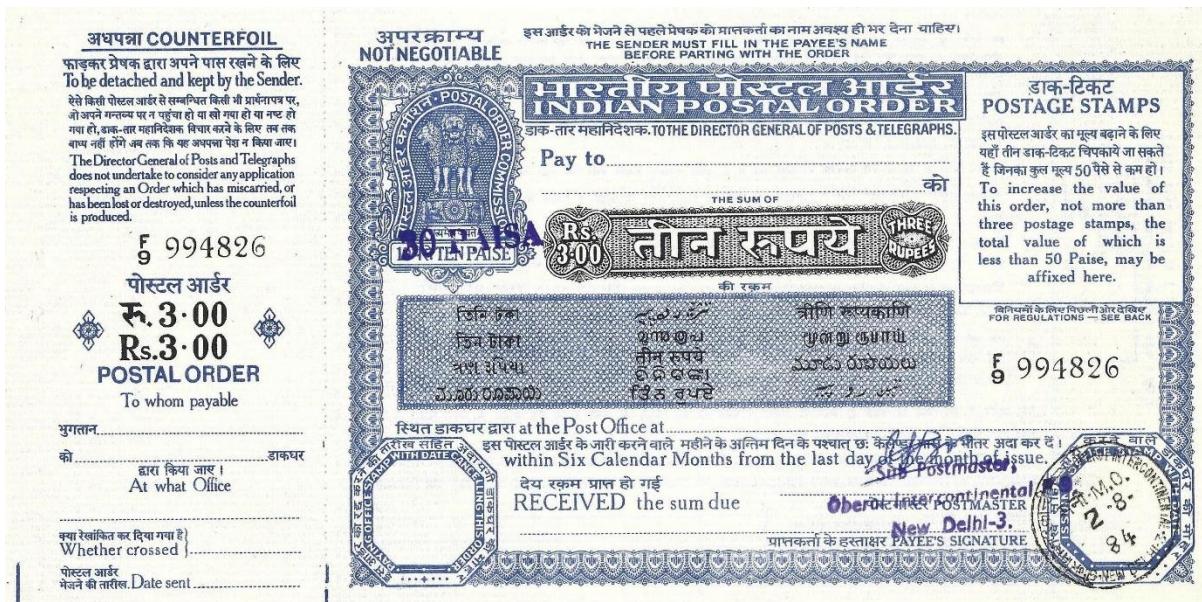


Watermarks:

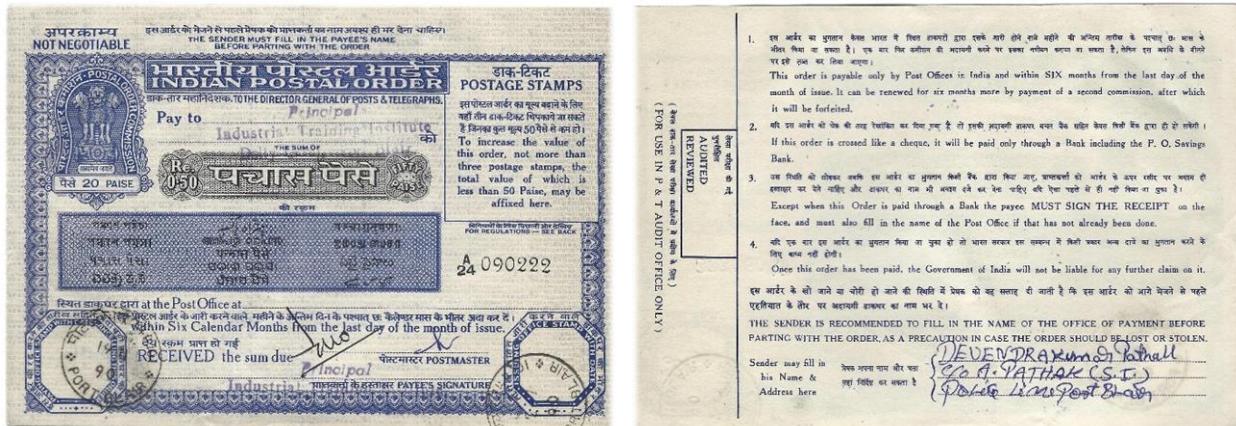
- Pattern of a Star in the center surrounded by text “GOVT” “INDIA” “GOVT” “INDIA” is repeated
- Text “GOVT OF INDIA” is repeated

Commission Value	Postal Order Value	Color	Serial Number Prefix Fractional Format	Confirmed
10 Paise	50 Paise	Blue	A	Yes
10 Paise	1 Rupee	Blue	B	Yes
10 Paise	2 Rupees	Blue	D	Yes
10 Paise	3 Rupees	Blue	F	Yes
10 Paise	4 Rupees	Blue	H	Yes
10 Paise	5 Rupees	Blue	K	Yes
10 Paise	6 Rupees	Blue	M	Yes
10 Paise	7 Rupees	Blue	P	Yes
10 Paise	8 Rupees	Blue	R	Yes
10 Paise	9 Rupees	Blue	T	Yes
	10 Rupees	Blue	W	
	20 Rupees	Purple	AA	
	30 Rupees	Green	BB	
	40 Rupees	Dark Brown	CC	
	50 Rupees	Red	DD	
	100 Rupees	Orange	EE	







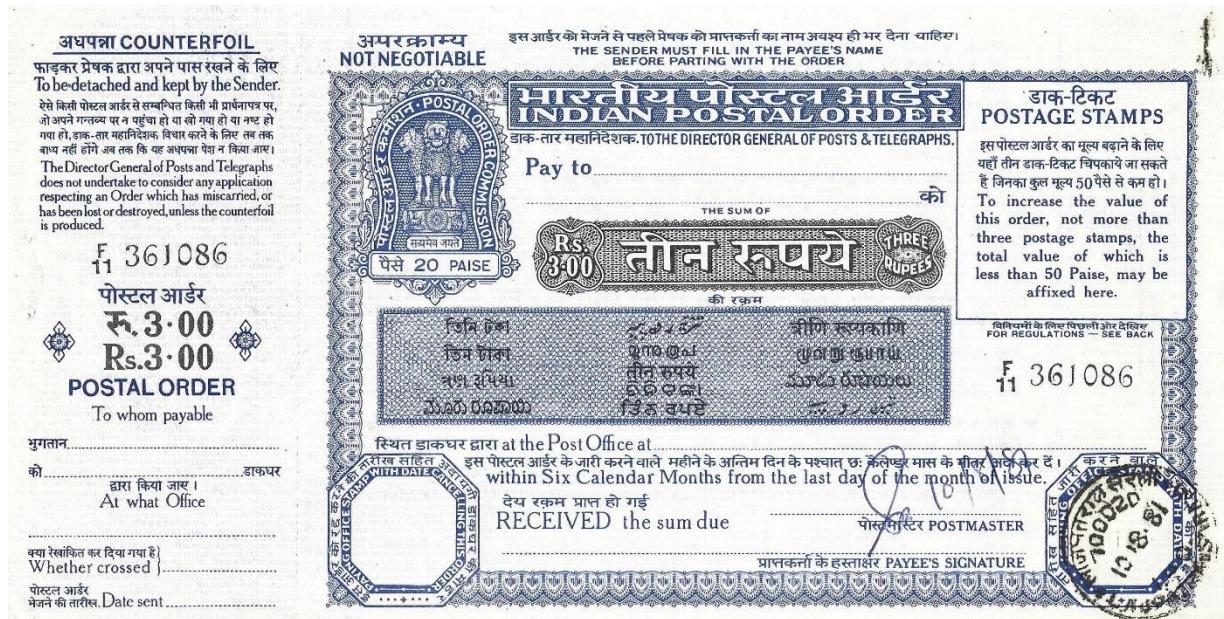


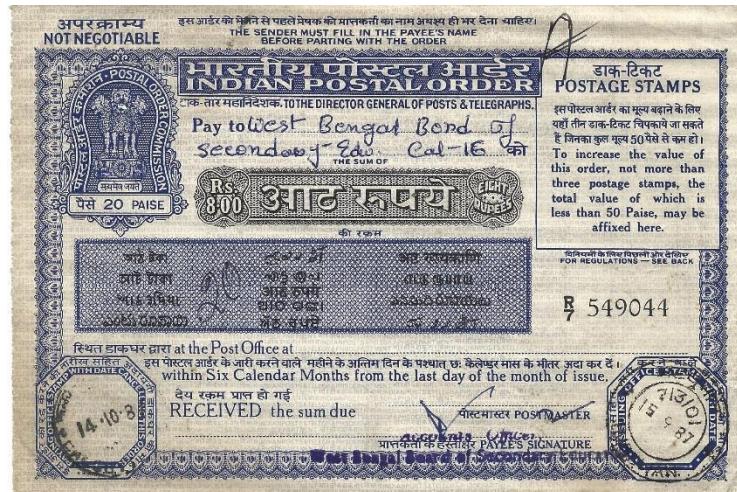
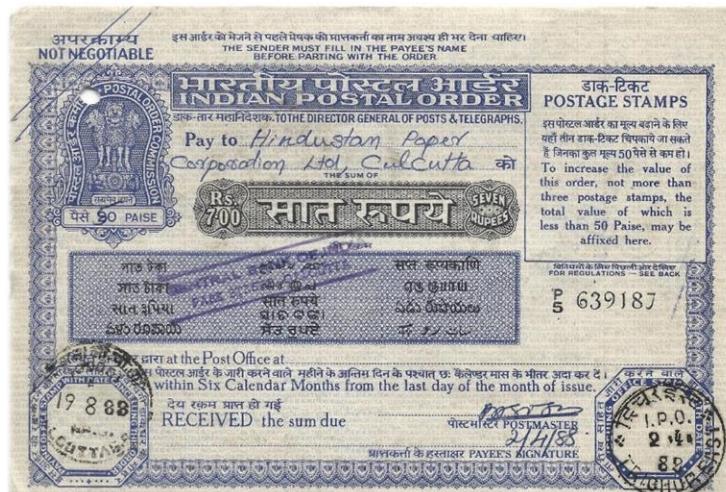
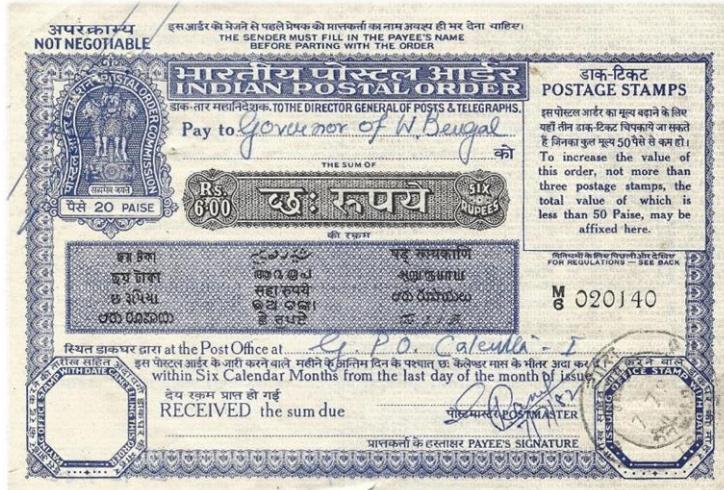
Watermarks:

- Pattern of a Star in the center surrounded by text “GOVT” “INDIA” “GOVT” “INDIA” is repeated
- Text “GOVT OF INDIA” is repeated

Commission Value	Postal Order Value	Color	Serial Number Prefix Fractional Format	Confirmed
20 Paise	50 Paise	Blue	A	Yes
20 Paise	1 Rupee	Blue	B	
20 Paise	2 Rupees	Blue	D	
20 Paise	3 Rupees	Blue	F	Yes
20 Paise	4 Rupees	Blue	H	Yes
20 Paise	5 Rupees	Blue	K	
20 Paise	6 Rupees	Blue	M	Yes
20 Paise	7 Rupees	Blue	P	Yes
20 Paise	8 Rupees	Blue	R	Yes
20 Paise	9 Rupees	Blue	T	
20 Paise	10 Rupees	Blue	W	
20 Paise	20 Rupees	Purple	AA	
30 Paise	30 Rupees	Green	BB	
40 Paise	40 Rupees	Dark Brown	CC	
50 Paise	50 Rupees	Red	DD	
1 Rupee	100 Rupees	Orange	EE	









Watermarks:

- Pattern of a Star in the center surrounded by text “GOVT” “INDIA” “GOVT” “INDIA” is repeated
- Text “GOVT OF INDIA” is repeated

Text on reverse side up to 10 Rupees printed in **Blue** color & on above 10 Rupees printed in **Black** color.
Language panel up to 10 Rupees has **13 languages** & above 10 Rupees has **14 languages**.

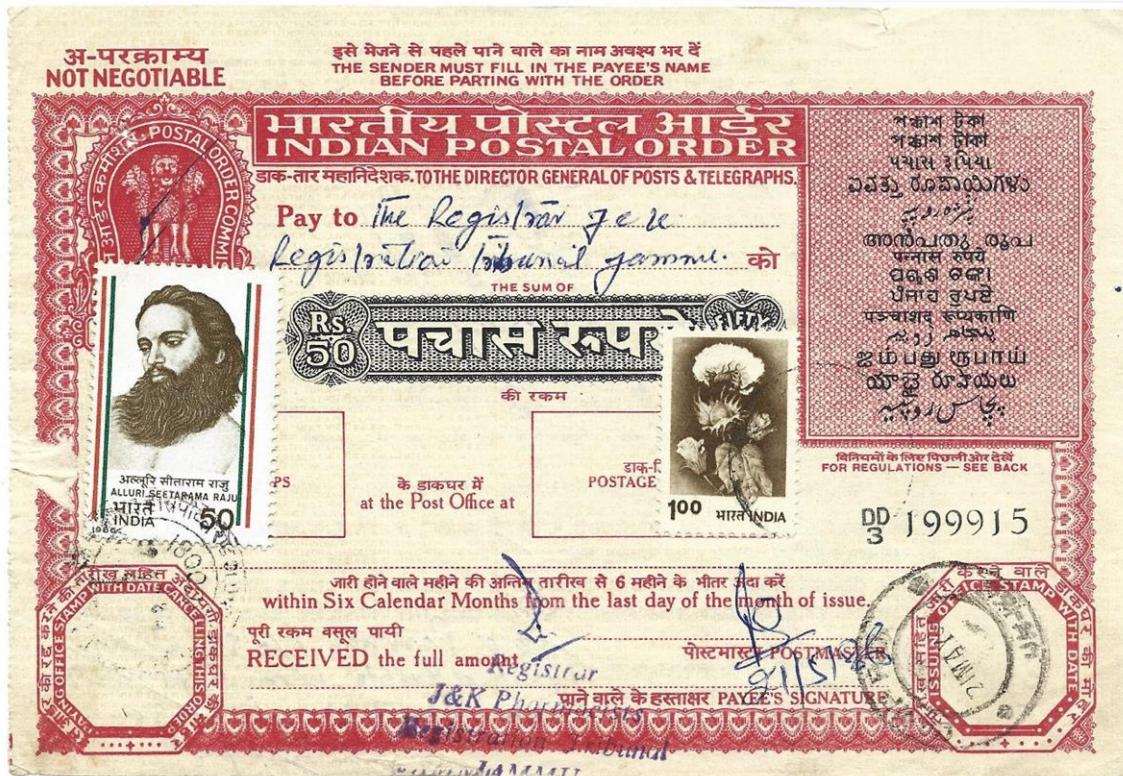
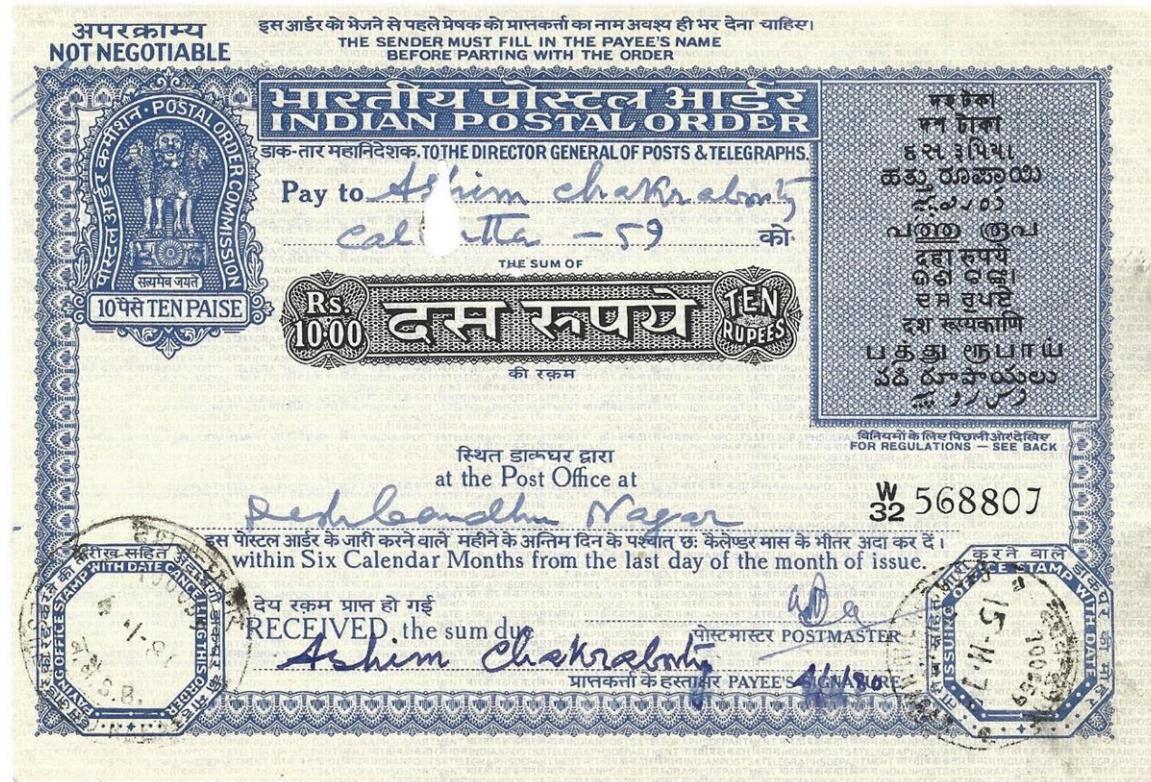
Commission Value	Postal Order Value	Color	Serial Number Prefix	Confirmed
10 Paise	50 Paise	Blue	A	
10 Paise	1 Rupee	Blue	B	
10 Paise	2 Rupees	Blue	D	
10 Paise	3 Rupees	Blue	F	
10 Paise	4 Rupees	Blue	H	
10 Paise	5 Rupees	Blue	K	
10 Paise	6 Rupees	Blue	M	
10 Paise	7 Rupees	Blue	P	
10 Paise	8 Rupees	Blue	R	
10 Paise	9 Rupees	Blue	T	
10 Paise	10 Rupees	Blue	W	Yes
20 Paise	20 Rupees	Purple	AA	Yes
30 Paise	30 Rupees	Green	BB	
40 Paise	40 Rupees	Dark Brown	CC	
50 Paise	50 Rupees	Red	DD	Yes
1 Rupee	100 Rupees	Orange	EE	

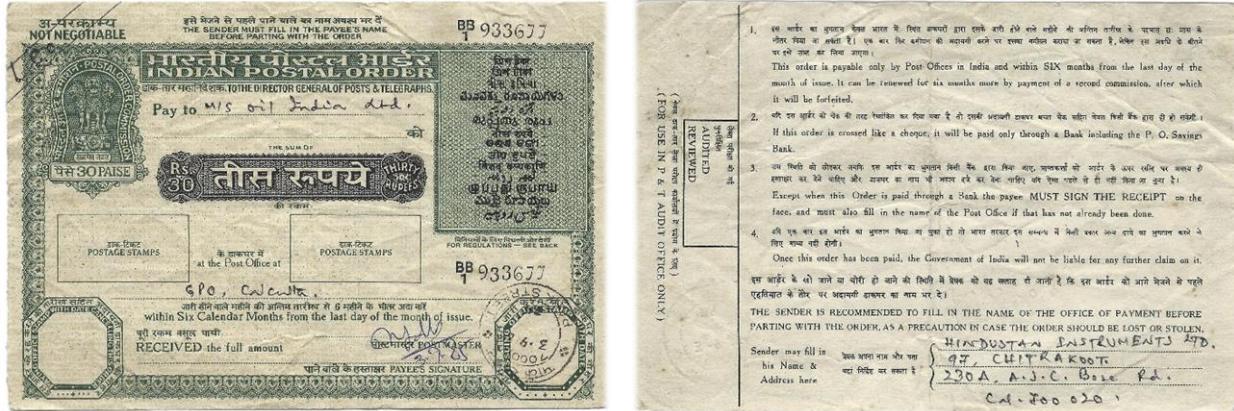


13 Languages



14 Languages





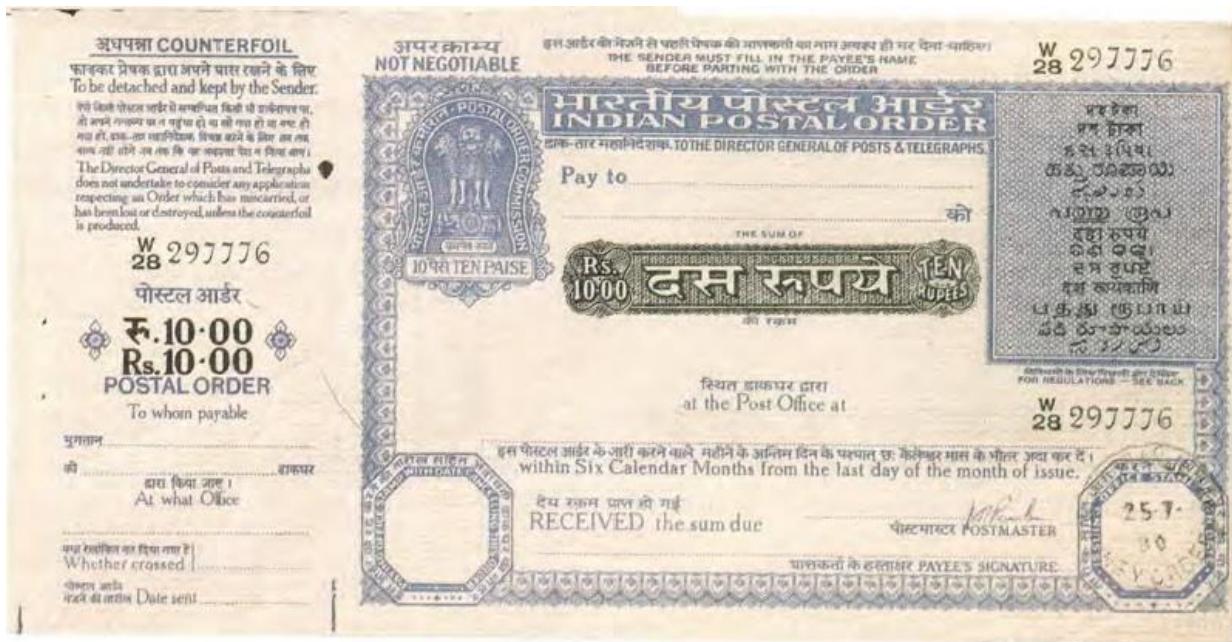
Watermarks:

- Pattern of a Star in the center surrounded by text “GOVT” “INDIA” “GOVT” “INDIA” is repeated
 - Text “GOVT OF INDIA” is repeated

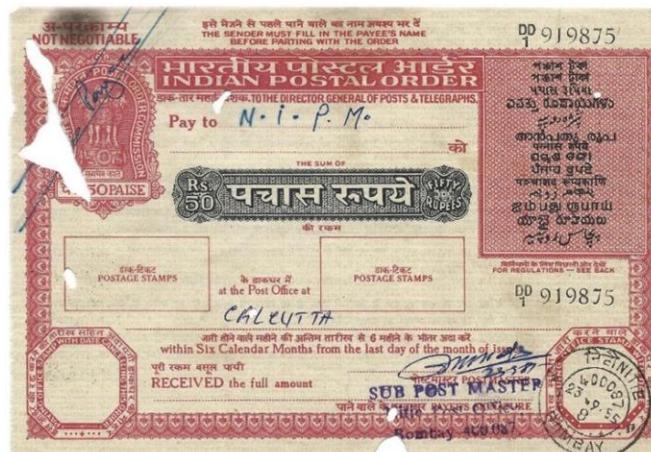
Text on reverse side up to 10 Rupees printed in **Blue** color & on above 10 Rupees printed in **Black** color.
Language panel up to 10 Rupees has **13 languages** & above 10 Rupees has **14 languages**.

Commission Value	Postal Order Value	Color	Serial Number Prefix	Confirmed
10 Paise	50 Paise	Blue	A	
10 Paise	1 Rupee	Blue	B	Image
10 Paise	2 Rupees	Blue	D	
10 Paise	3 Rupees	Blue	F	
10 Paise	4 Rupees	Blue	H	
10 Paise	5 Rupees	Blue	K	
10 Paise	6 Rupees	Blue	M	
10 Paise	7 Rupees	Blue	P	
10 Paise	8 Rupees	Blue	R	
10 Paise	9 Rupees	Blue	T	
10 Paise	10 Rupees	Blue	W (Fractional)	Image
20 Paise	20 Rupees	Purple	AA	
30 Paise	30 Rupees	Green	BB (Fractional)	Yes
40 Paise	40 Rupees	Dark Brown	CC (Fractional & Non-Fractional)	Yes
50 Paise	50 Rupees	Red	DD (Fractional)	Yes
1 Rupee	100 Rupees	Orange	EE (Fractional & Non-Fractional)	Yes





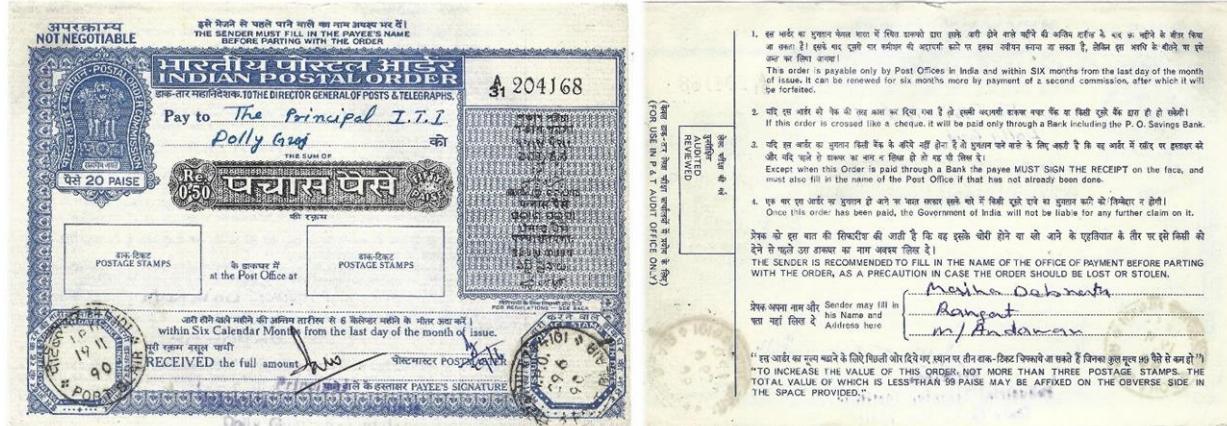
Note: Serial number prefix in 2 varieties: Fractional & Non-Fractional





Note: Serial number prefix in 2 varieties: Fractional & Non-Fractional

Note: The design of Postal Order of 100 Rupees is **different** than the other denominations, as maximum value that was allowed for a Postal Order was 100 Rupees, so the box to apply additional postage stamps was removed from the design of the Postal Order of 100 Rupees.



Watermarks:

- Pattern of a Star in the center surrounded by text "GOVT" "INDIA" "GOVT" "INDIA" is repeated
- Text "GOVT OF INDIA" is repeated

Text on reverse side up to 10 Rupees printed in **Blue** color & on above 10 Rupees printed in **Black** color.
Language panel up to 10 Rupees has **13 languages** & above 10 Rupees has **14 languages**.

Commission Value	Postal Order Value	Color	Serial Number Prefix	Confirmed
20 Paise	50 Paise	Blue	A	Yes
20 Paise	1 Rupee	Blue	B	Yes
20 Paise	2 Rupees	Blue	D	Yes
20 Paise	3 Rupees	Blue	F	Yes
20 Paise	4 Rupees	Blue	H	Yes
20 Paise	5 Rupees	Blue	K	Yes
20 Paise	6 Rupees	Blue	M	Yes
20 Paise	7 Rupees	Blue	M & P	Yes
20 Paise	8 Rupees	Blue	R	Yes
20 Paise	9 Rupees	Blue	T	Yes
20 Paise	10 Rupees	Blue	W	Yes
40 Paise	20 Rupees	Purple	AA	Yes
60 Paise	30 Rupees	Green	BB	
80 Paise	40 Rupees	Dark Brown	CC	Yes
1 Rupee	50 Rupees	Red	DD	
2 Rupees	100 Rupees	Orange	EE	Yes



13 Languages



14 Languages



Rs. 7.00
Rs. 7.00
POSTAL ORDER

Rupees & Paise

Language Panel in Right
Serial Number: 1 Place, Top

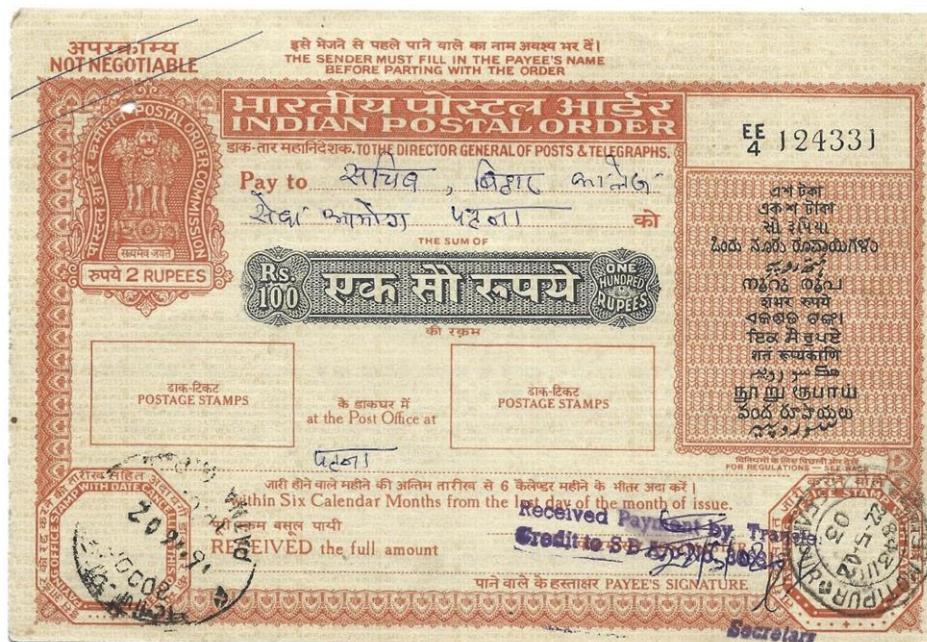
Type 55





Note: Rupees 7 Postal Order with Serial Number Prefix as M





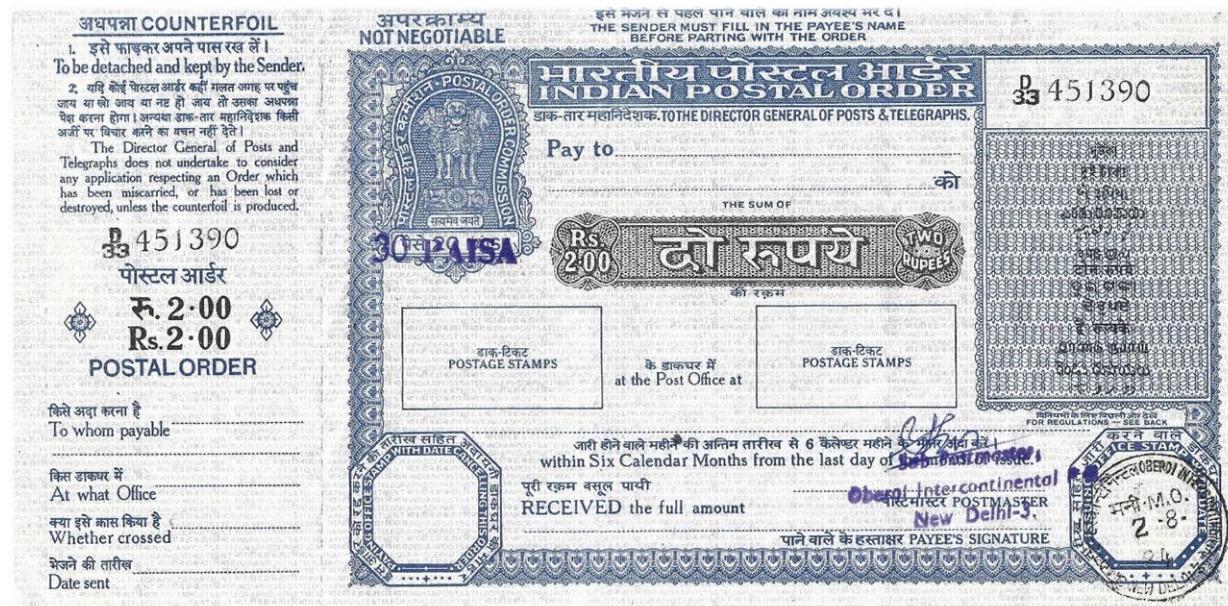
Note: The design of Postal Order of 100 Rupees is **same** as the other denominations

Rupees & Paise

Language Panel on Right
Serial Number: 1 Place, Top

Minimum Commission Value: 20 Paise Surcharged 30 Paisa

Type
55A



Watermarks:

- Pattern of 4 Ashok Stambha Connected Together is Repeated

Text on reverse side up to 10 Rupees printed in **Blue** color & on above 10 Rupees printed in **Black** color.
Language panel up to 10 Rupees has **13 languages** & above 10 Rupees has **14 languages**.

Commission Value	Postal Order Value	Color	Serial Number Prefix	Confirmed
20 Paise Surcharged 30 Paisa	50 Paise	Blue	A	
20 Paise Surcharged 30 Paisa	1 Rupee	Blue	B	Yes
20 Paise Surcharged 30 Paisa	2 Rupees	Blue	D	Yes
20 Paise Surcharged 30 Paisa	3 Rupees	Blue	F	
20 Paise Surcharged 30 Paisa	4 Rupees	Blue	H	
20 Paise Surcharged 30 Paisa	5 Rupees	Blue	K	Yes
20 Paise Surcharged 30 Paisa	6 Rupees	Blue	M	Yes
20 Paise Surcharged 30 Paisa	7 Rupees	Blue	P	Yes
20 Paise Surcharged 30 Paisa	8 Rupees	Blue	R	
20 Paise Surcharged 30 Paisa	9 Rupees	Blue	T	
20 Paise Surcharged 30 Paisa	10 Rupees	Blue	W	
	20 Rupees	Purple	AA	
	30 Rupees	Green	BB	
	40 Rupees	Dark Brown	CC	
	50 Rupees	Red	DD	
	100 Rupees	Orange	EE	

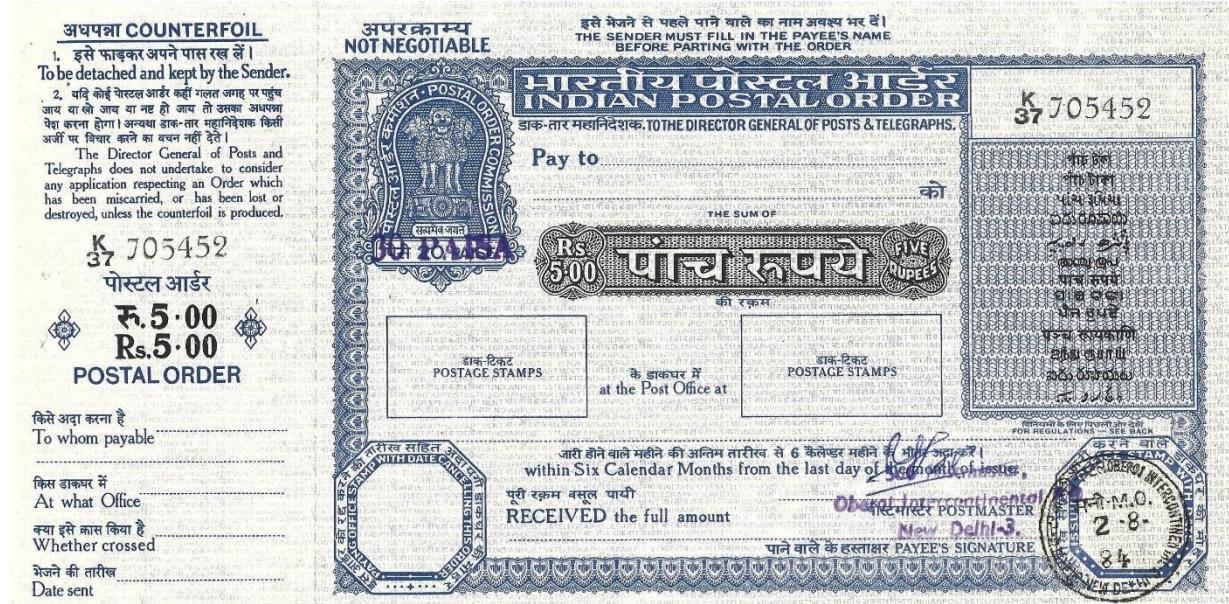
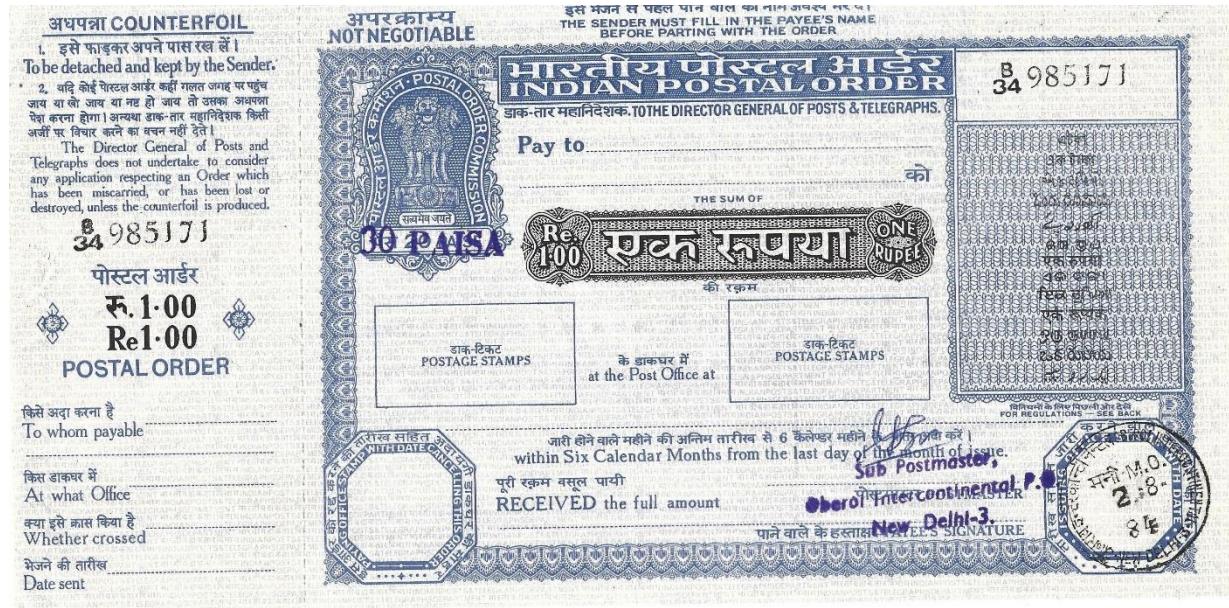


Rupees & Paise

Language Panel on Right
Serial Number: 1 Place, Top

Minimum Commission Value: 20 Paise Surcharged 30 Paisa

Type
55A

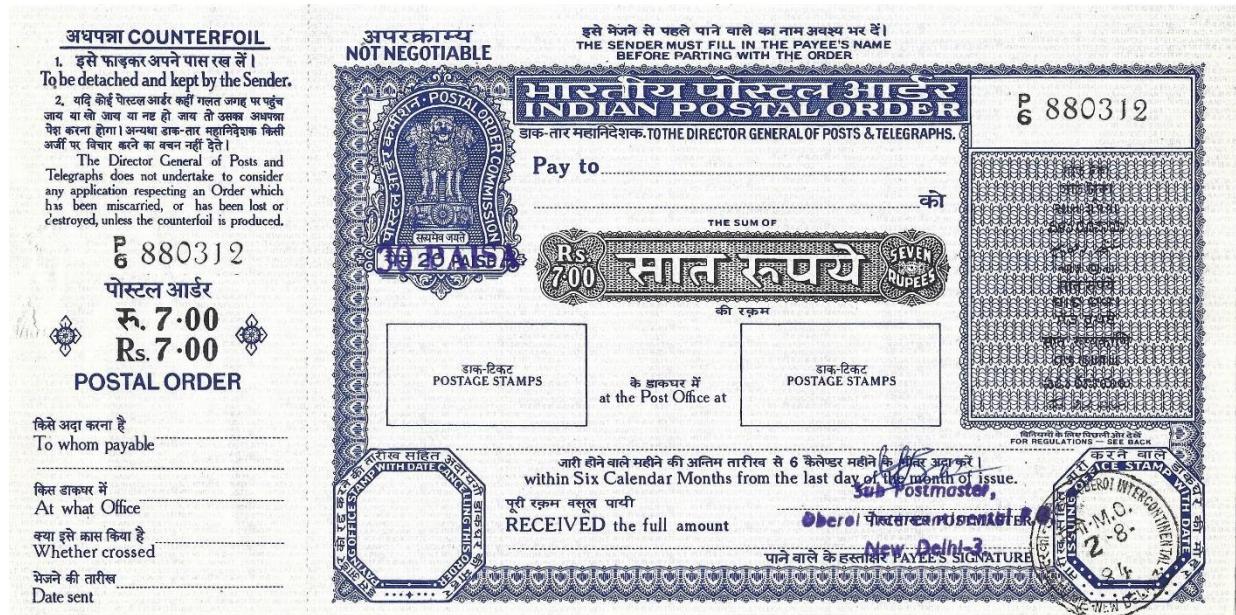
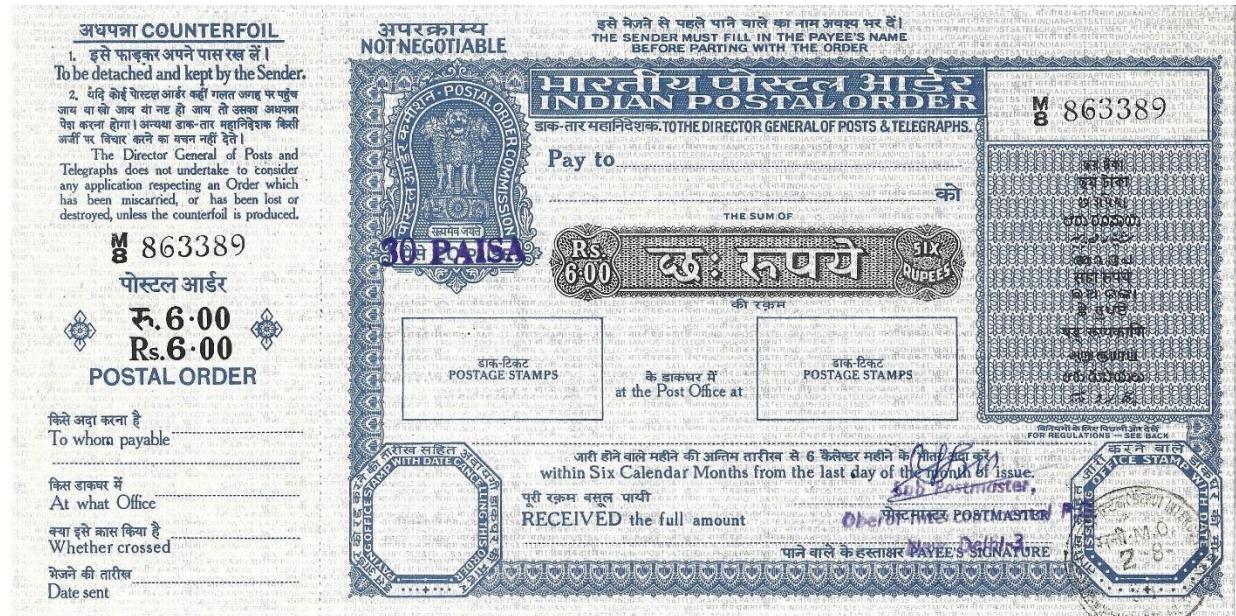


Rupees & Paise

Language Panel on Right Serial Number: 1 Place, Top

Minimum Commission Value: 20 Paise Surcharged 30 Paisa

Type 55A



Rupees & Paise

Language Panel on Right
Serial Number: 1 Place, Top

Minimum Commission Value: 20 Paise Surcharged 50 Paisa

Type
55B



Watermarks:

- Pattern of 4 Ashok Stambha Connected Together is Repeated

Text on reverse side up to 10 Rupees printed in **Blue** color & on above 10 Rupees printed in **Black** color.
Language panel up to 10 Rupees has **13 languages** & above 10 Rupees has **14 languages**.

Commission Value	Postal Order Value	Color	Serial Number Prefix	Confirmed
20 Paise Surcharged 50 Paisa	50 Paise	Blue	A	Image
20 Paise Surcharged 50 Paisa	1 Rupee	Blue	B	Image
20 Paise Surcharged 50 Paisa	2 Rupees	Blue	D	Image
20 Paise Surcharged 50 Paisa	3 Rupees	Blue	F	
20 Paise Surcharged 50 Paisa	4 Rupees	Blue	H	
20 Paise Surcharged 50 Paisa	5 Rupees	Blue	K	
20 Paise Surcharged 50 Paisa	6 Rupees	Blue	M	
20 Paise Surcharged 50 Paisa	7 Rupees	Blue	P	Image
20 Paise Surcharged 50 Paisa	8 Rupees	Blue	R	
20 Paise Surcharged 50 Paisa	9 Rupees	Blue	T	
20 Paise Surcharged 50 Paisa	10 Rupees	Blue	W	
	20 Rupees	Purple	AA	
	30 Rupees	Green	BB	
	40 Rupees	Dark Brown	CC	
	50 Rupees	Red	DD	
	100 Rupees	Orange	EE	



Rupees & Paise

Language Panel on Right
Serial Number: 1 Place, Top

Minimum Commission Value: 20 Paise Surcharged 50 Paisa

Type
5B

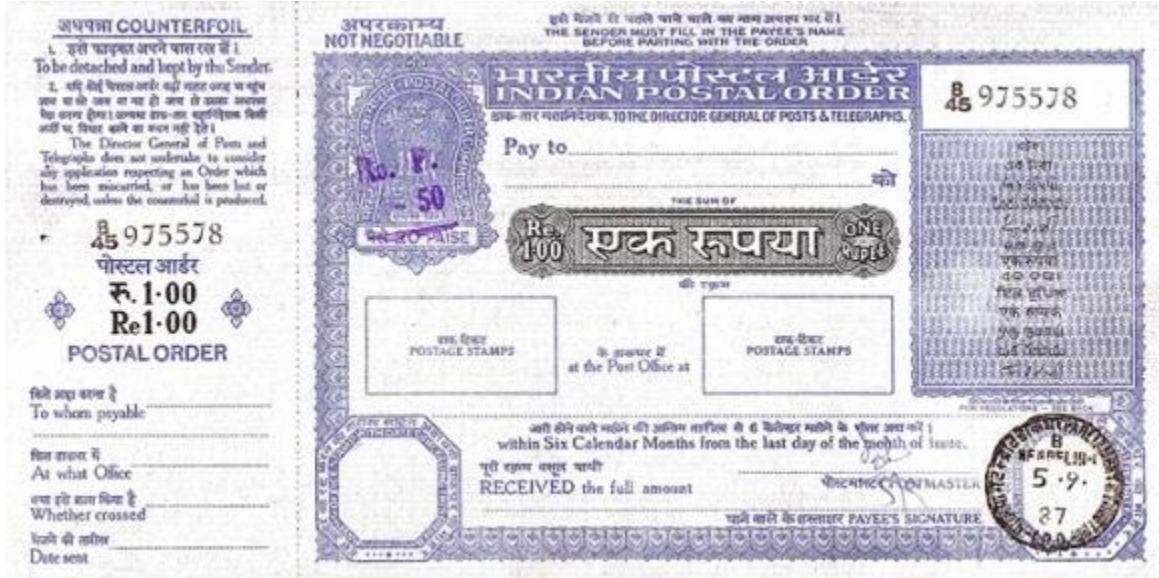


Image Courtesy: Mr. Aidan Work (<https://banknotebank.com>)



Image Courtesy: Mr. Aidan Work (<https://banknotebank.com>)

Rupees & Paise

Language Panel on Right
Serial Number: 1 Place, Top

Minimum Commission Value: 20 Paise Surcharged 50 Paisa

Type
55B



Image Courtesy: Mr. Aidan Work (<https://banknotebank.com>)

Indian Postal Order Bank Cheque Design

5

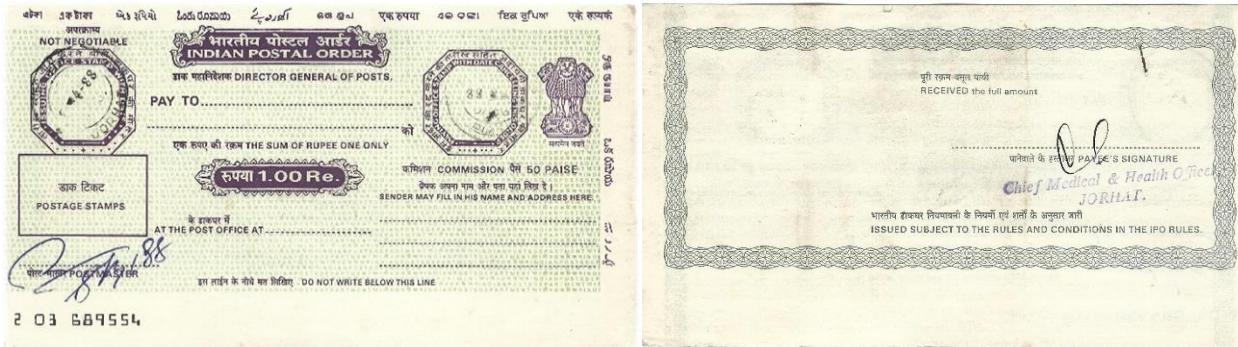
Information	Its validity is for 24 months. Commission charged based on value of the Postal Order.
Regulations	Updated Notification No. G.S.R. 408 (E). Dated 17 th May 2010
Years of Issue	1988 – Till date
Watermark	Rows of Ashok Stambh
Printer	None Printed at Security Printing Press, Hyderabad
Size	Typical size without the counterfoil is 92 x 168 mm ² Typical size the counterfoil is 92 x 222 mm ² Note: The cutting of these Indian Postal Orders is not very precise, creating a few millimeter variations in sizes.
Denominations	Broken amounts may be made up by affixing unused Indian Postal Stamps, not exceeding four in number on the face of the Indian Postal Orders or where the space on that side is not adequate on the reverse thereof; provided that the total of stamps affixed on each order shall not exceed three rupees and the total amount payable on the order shall not exceed one hundred rupees.
Comments	Magnetic Ink Character Recognition (MICR) numeric data printed with magnetically charged ink that MICR readers can detect & read. The E13B standard font is used for MICR digits as shown below: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0



Design Like Bank Cheque

MICR Serial Number - Text "AT
THE POST OFFICE AT" in the
Left of Center

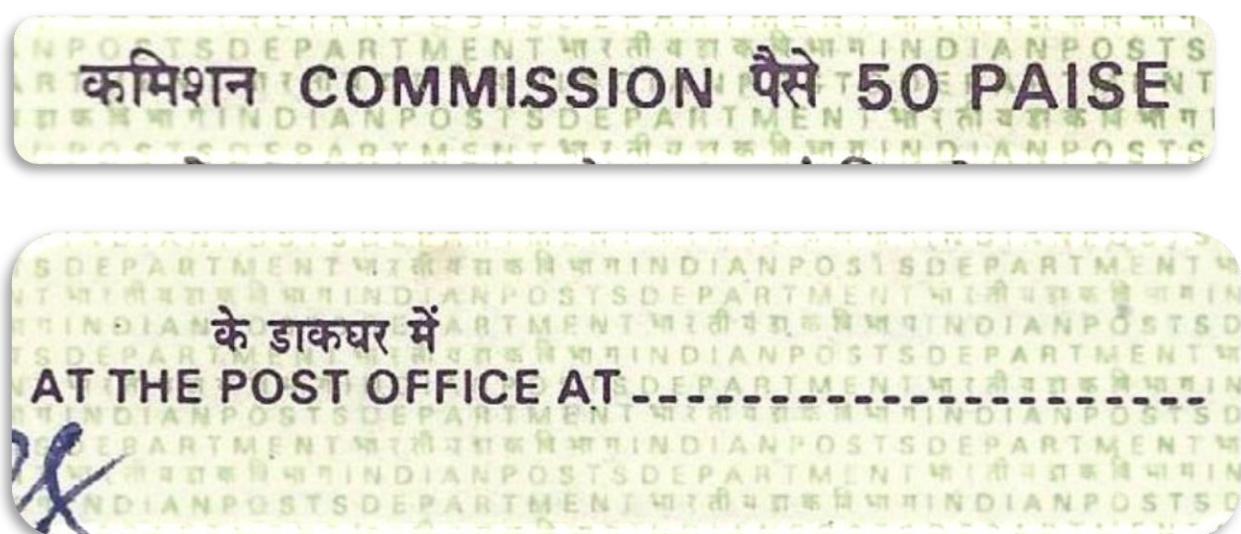
Type 70



Watermarks:

- Pattern of 4 Ashok Stambha Connected Together is Repeated

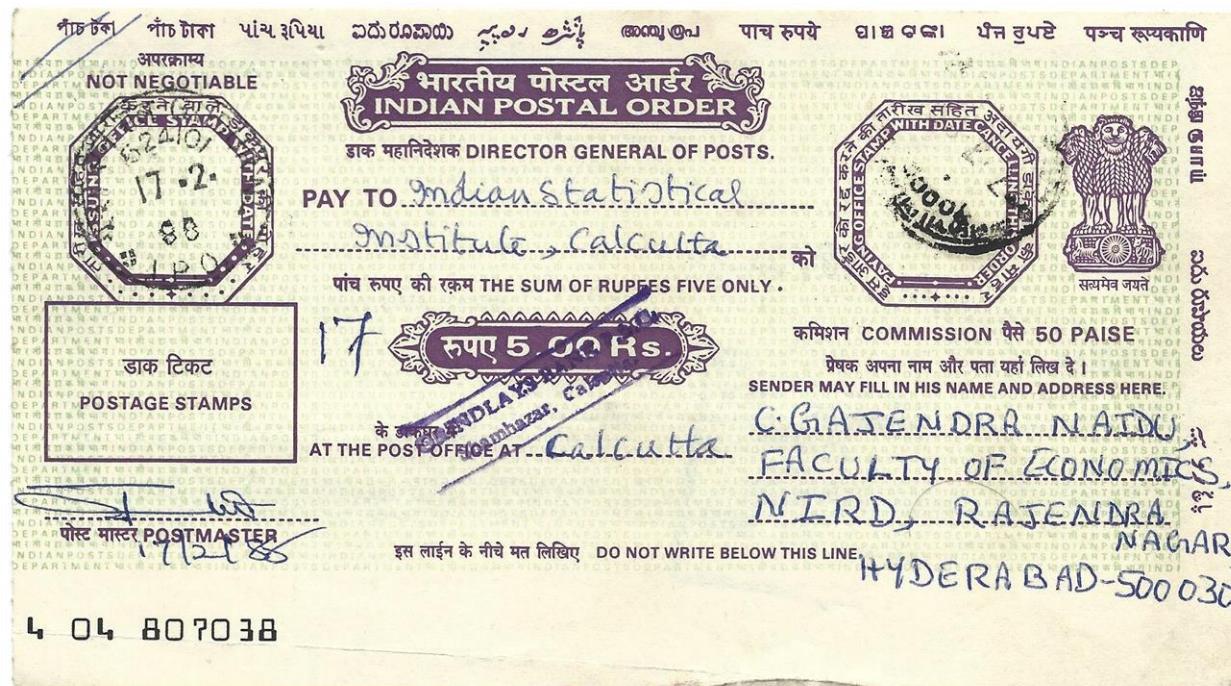
Commission Value	Postal Order Value	Color	First Digit of MICR Code	Confirmed
50 Paise	50 Paise	Purple on Green Underprint	1	
50 Paise	1 Rupee	Purple on Green Underprint	2	Yes
50 Paise	2 Rupees	Purple on Green Underprint	3	Yes
50 Paise	5 Rupees	Purple on Green Underprint	4	Yes
50 Paise	7 Rupees	Purple on Green Underprint	5	
50 Paise	10 Rupees	Red on Green Underprint	6	
?? Paise	20 Rupees	Red on Green Underprint	7	
? Rupee	50 Rupees	Red on Green Underprint	8	
? Rupees	100 Rupees	Red on Green Underprint	9	



Design Like Bank Cheque

MICR Serial Number - Text "AT
THE POST OFFICE AT" in the
Left of Center

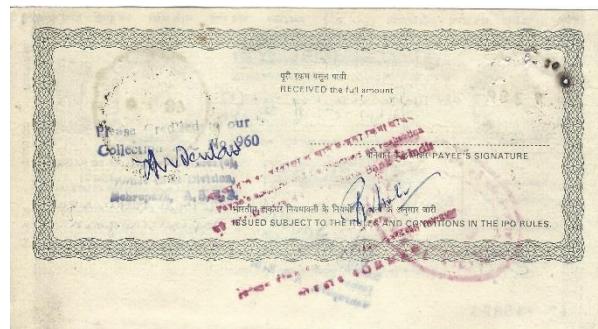
Type 70



Design Like Bank Cheque

MICR Serial Number - Text "AT
THE POST OFFICE AT" in the
Center

Type 71



Watermarks:

- Pattern of 4 Ashok Stambha Connected Together is Repeated

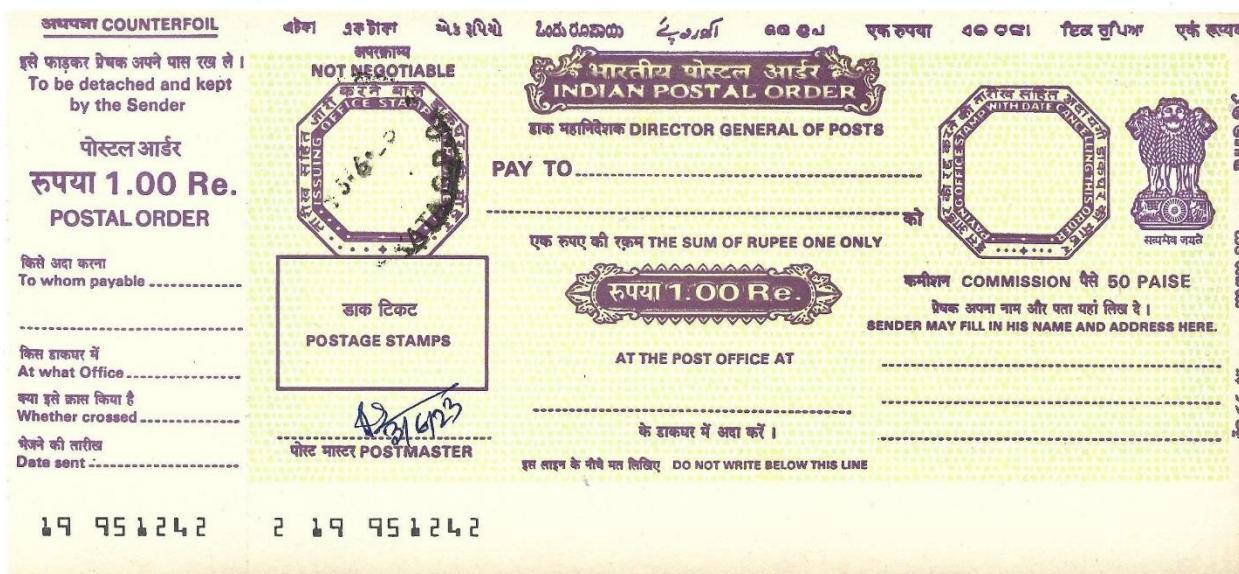
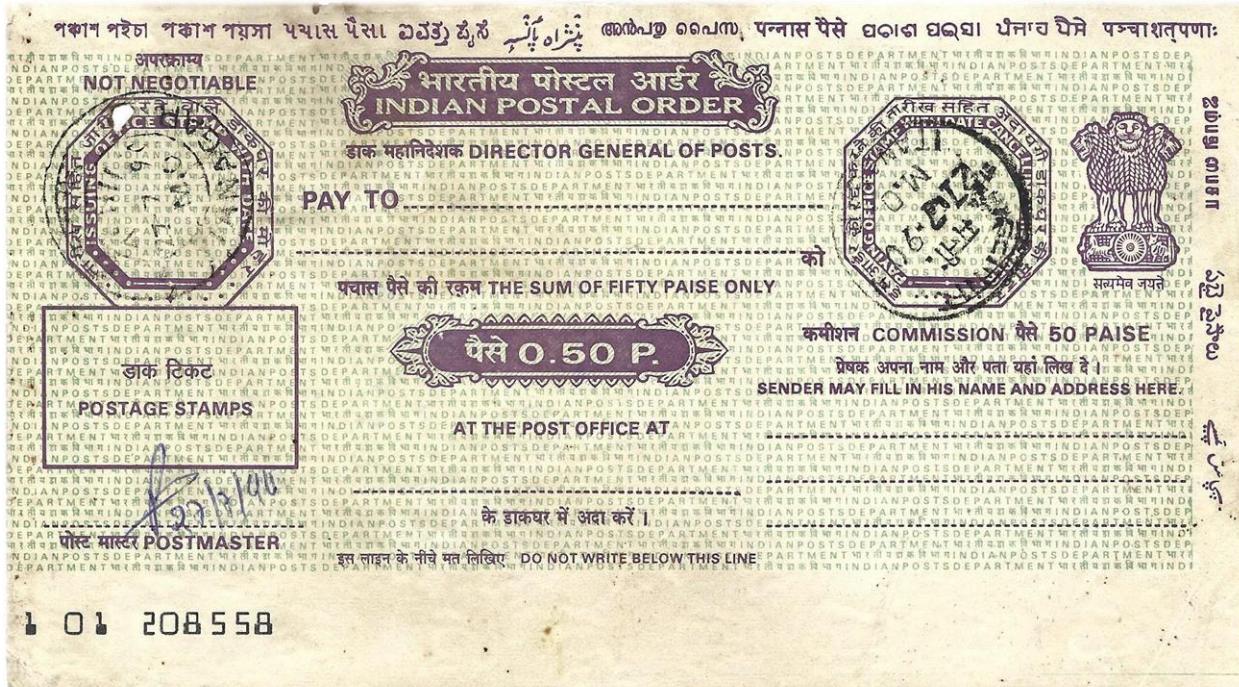
Commission Value	Postal Order Value	Color	First Digit of MICR Code	Confirmed
50 Paise	50 Paise	Purple on Green Underprint	1	Yes
50 Paise	1 Rupee	Purple on Green Underprint	2	Yes
50 Paise	2 Rupees	Purple on Green Underprint	3	Yes
50 Paise	5 Rupees	Purple on Green Underprint	4	Yes
50 Paise	7 Rupees	Purple on Green Underprint	5	Yes
50 Paise	10 Rupees	Red on Green Underprint	6	Yes
1 Rupee	20 Rupees	Red on Green Underprint	7	Yes
2.50 Rupees	50 Rupees	Red on Green Underprint	8	Yes
?? Rupees	100 Rupees	Red on Green Underprint	9	



Design Like Bank Cheque

MICR Serial Number - Text "AT
THE POST OFFICE AT" in the
Center

Type 71



Design Like Bank Cheque

MICR Serial Number - Text "AT
THE POST OFFICE AT" in the
Center

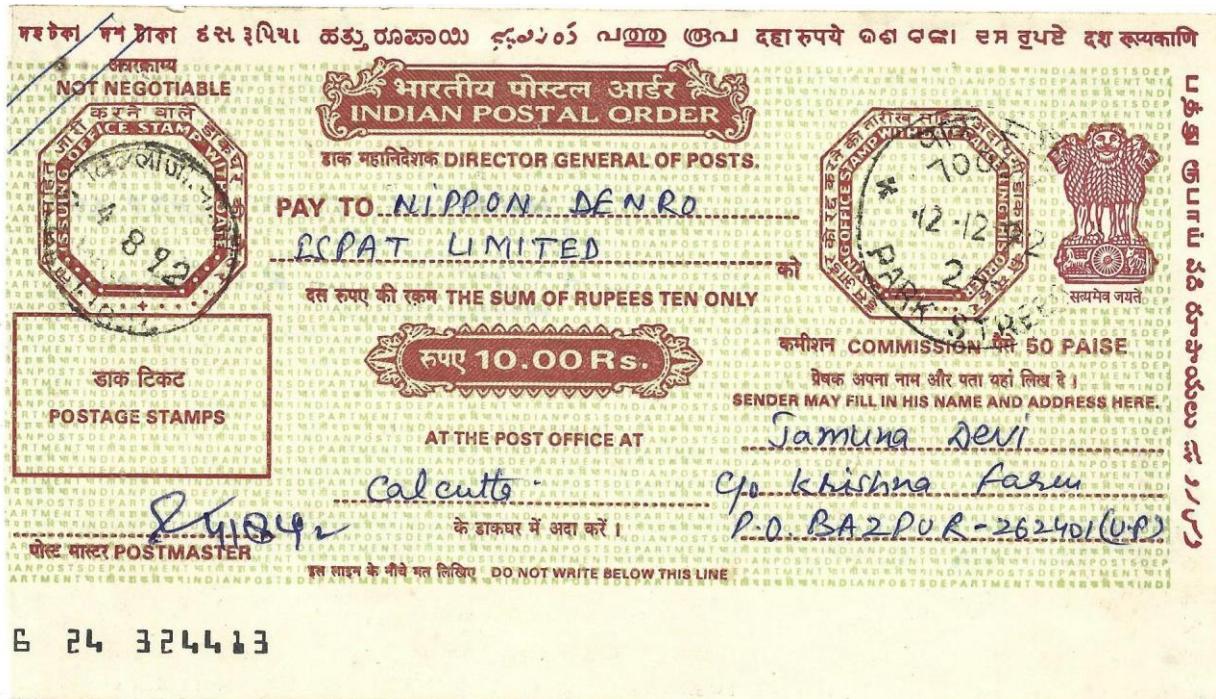
Type 71



Design Like Bank Cheque

MICR Serial Number - Text "AT
THE POST OFFICE AT" in the
Center

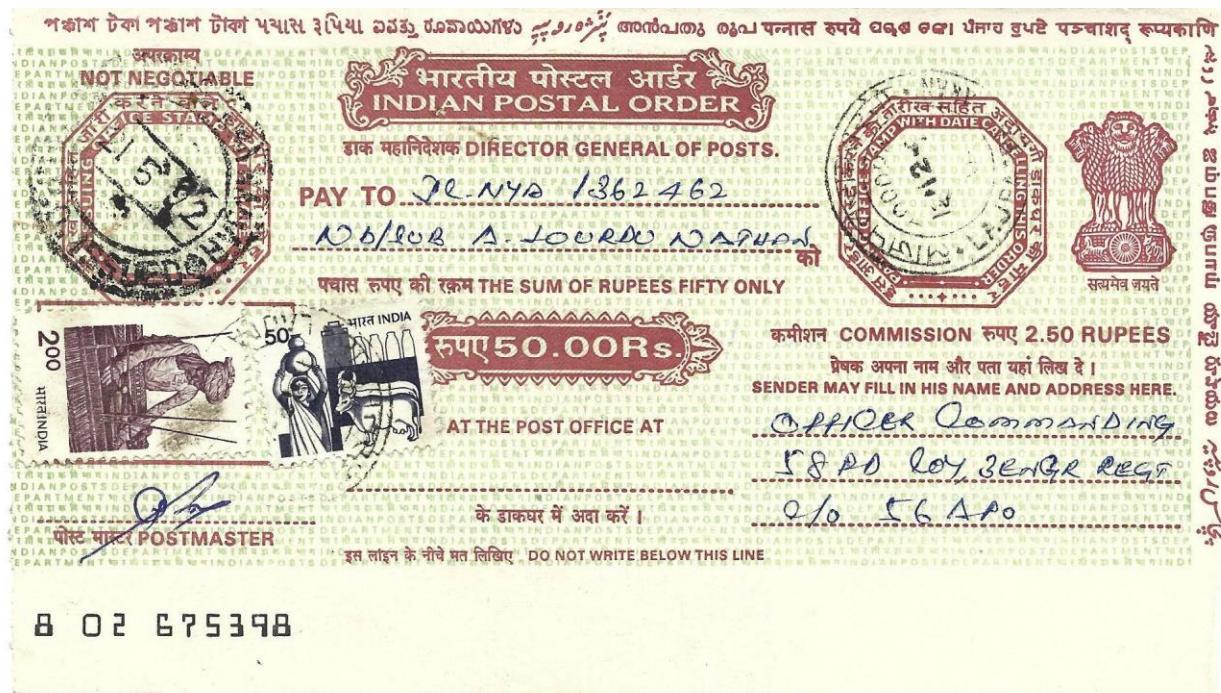
Type 71

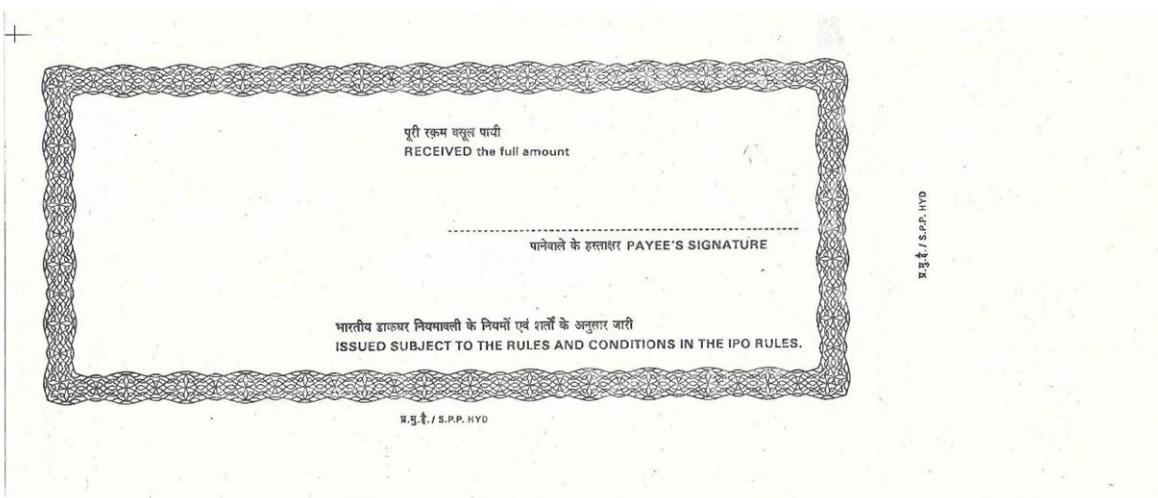
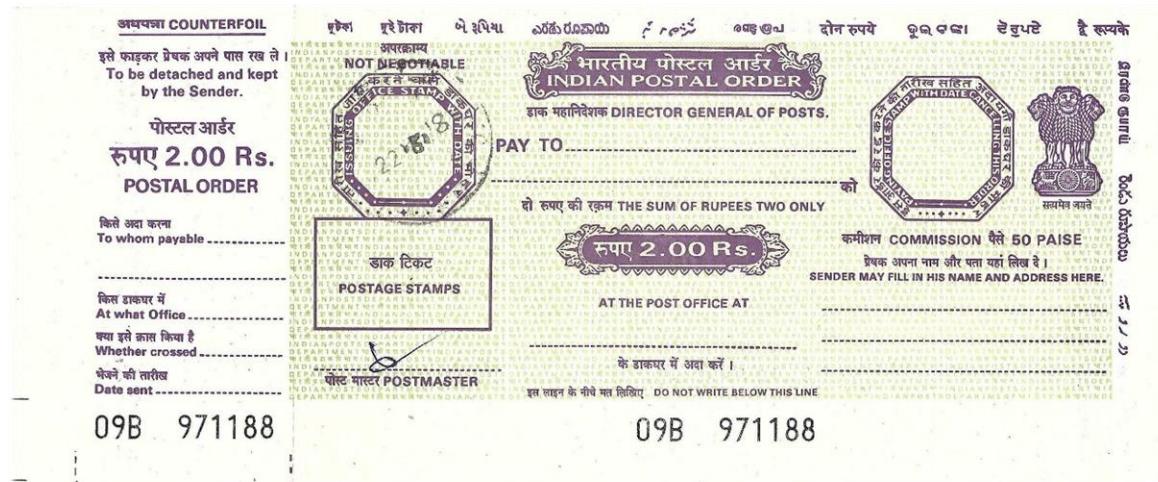


Design Like Bank Cheque

MICR Serial Number - Text "AT
THE POST OFFICE AT" in the
Center

Type 71

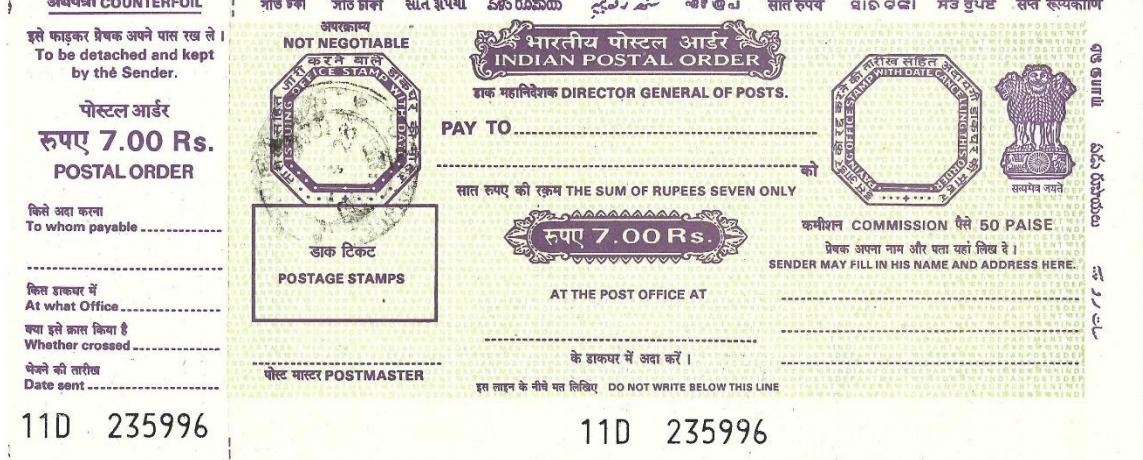
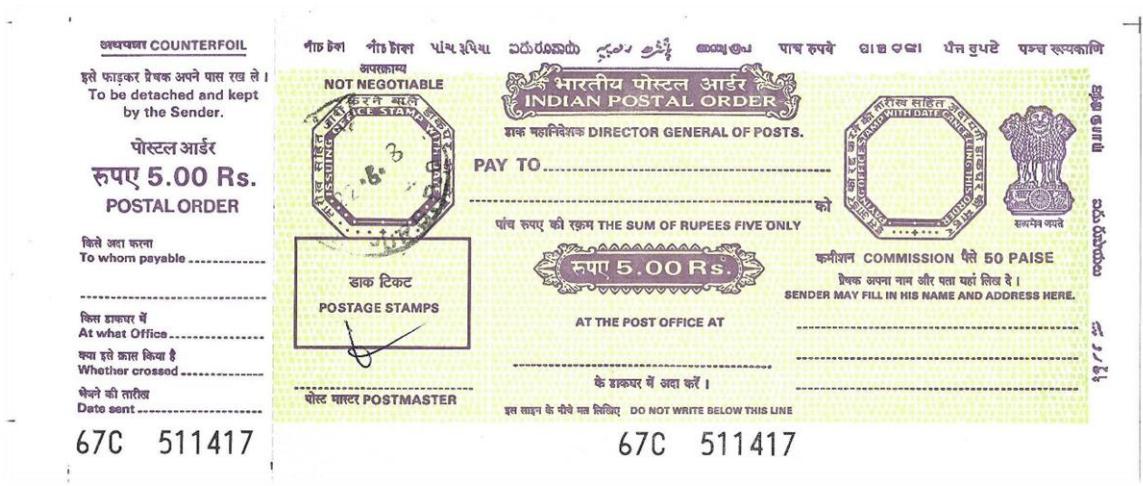
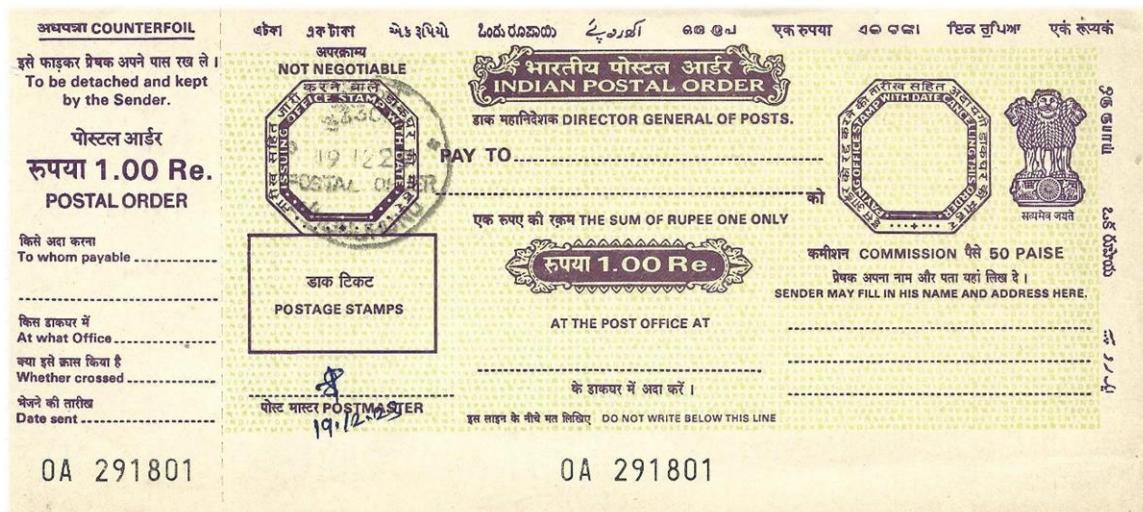


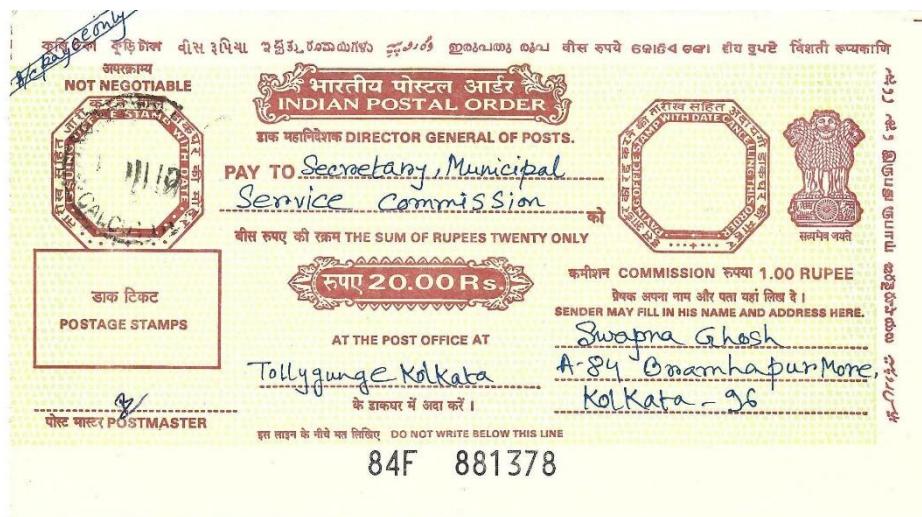
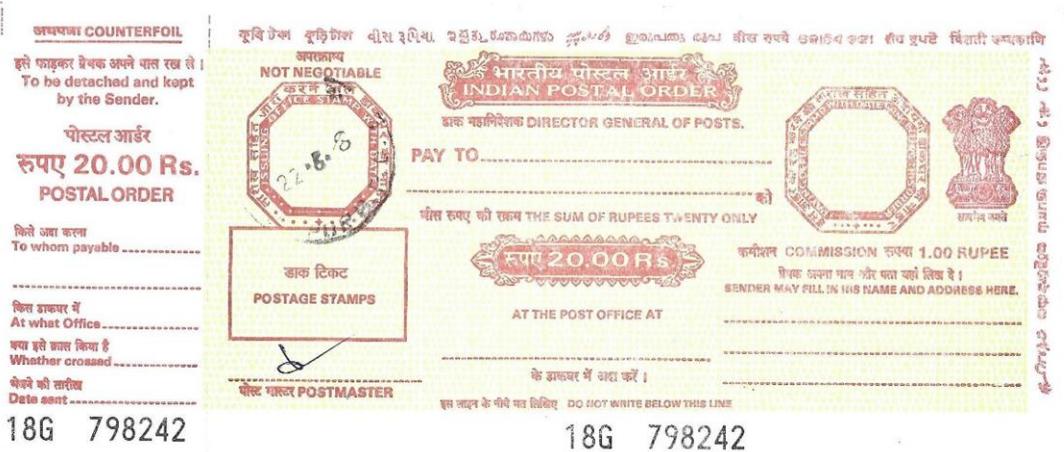
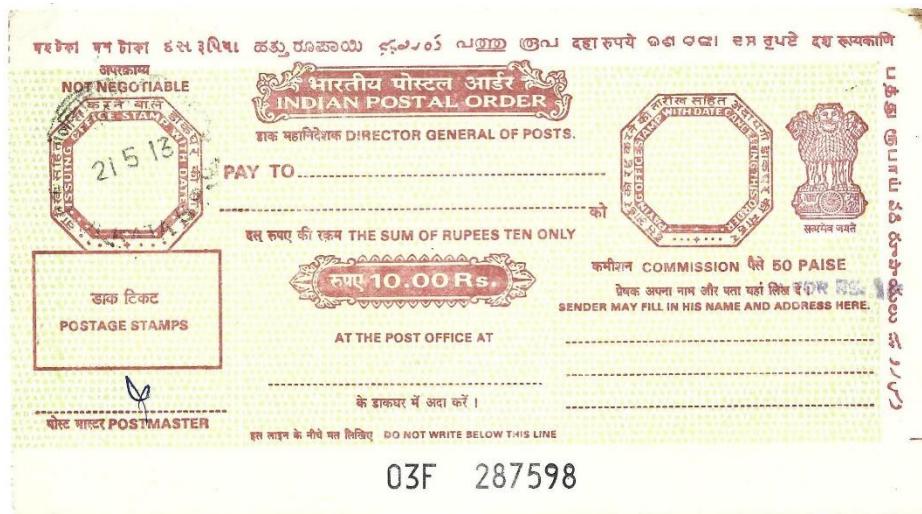


Watermark:

- Pattern of 4 Ashok Stambha Connected Together is Repeated

Commission Value	Postal Order Value	Color	Serial Number Prefix	Confirmed
50 Paise	1 Rupee	Purple on Green Underprint	A	Yes
50 Paise	2 Rupees	Purple on Green Underprint	B	Yes
50 Paise	5 Rupees	Purple on Green Underprint	C	Yes
50 Paise	7 Rupees	Purple on Green Underprint	D	Yes
1 Rupee	10 Rupees	Red on Green Underprint	E & F	Yes
1 Rupee	20 Rupees	Red on Green Underprint	F & G	Yes
2.5 Rupees	50 Rupees	Red on Green Underprint	G	Image
5 Rupees	100 Rupees	Red on Green Underprint	H	Yes





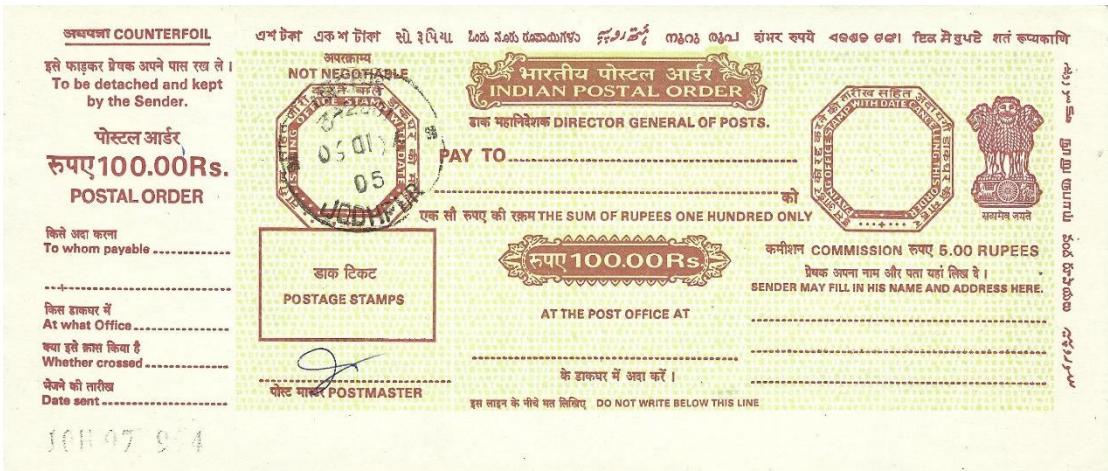
Design Like Bank Cheque

Non-MICR Serial Number

Type 72



Image Courtesy: Mr. Aidan Work (<https://banknotebank.com>)





A bundle of 100 Postal Orders of 2 Rupees



A bundle of 100 Postal Orders of 5 Rupees

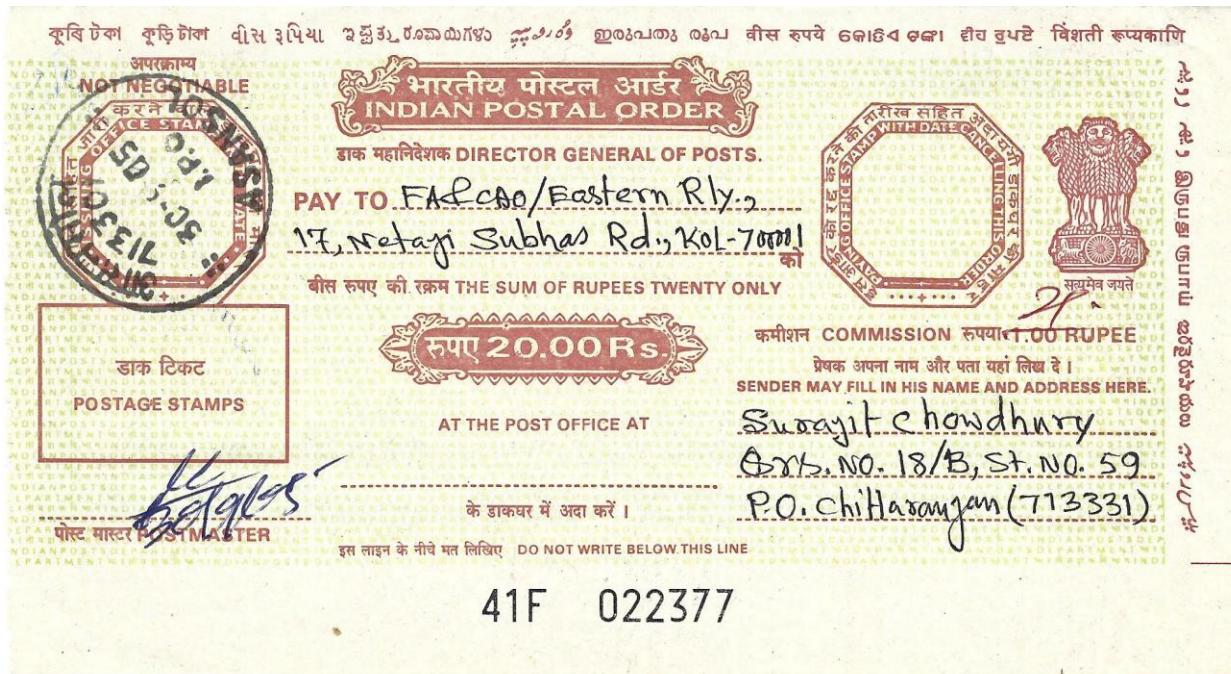
Design Like Bank Cheque

Non-MICR Serial Number

Minimum Commission Value:

50 Paise Surcharged 1 Rupee

Type 72A



Watermark:

- Pattern of 4 Ashok Stambha Connected Together is Repeated

Commission Value	Postal Order Value	Color	Serial Number Prefix	Confirmed
50 Paise Surcharged 1 Rupee	2 Rupees	Purple on Green Underprint	B	Yes
1 Rupee Surcharged 2 Rupees	20 Rupees	Red on Green Underprint	F	Yes
2.5 Rupees Surcharged 5 Rupees	50 Rupees	Red on Green Underprint	G	
5 Rupees Surcharged 10 Rupee	100 Rupees	Red on Green Underprint	H	Image



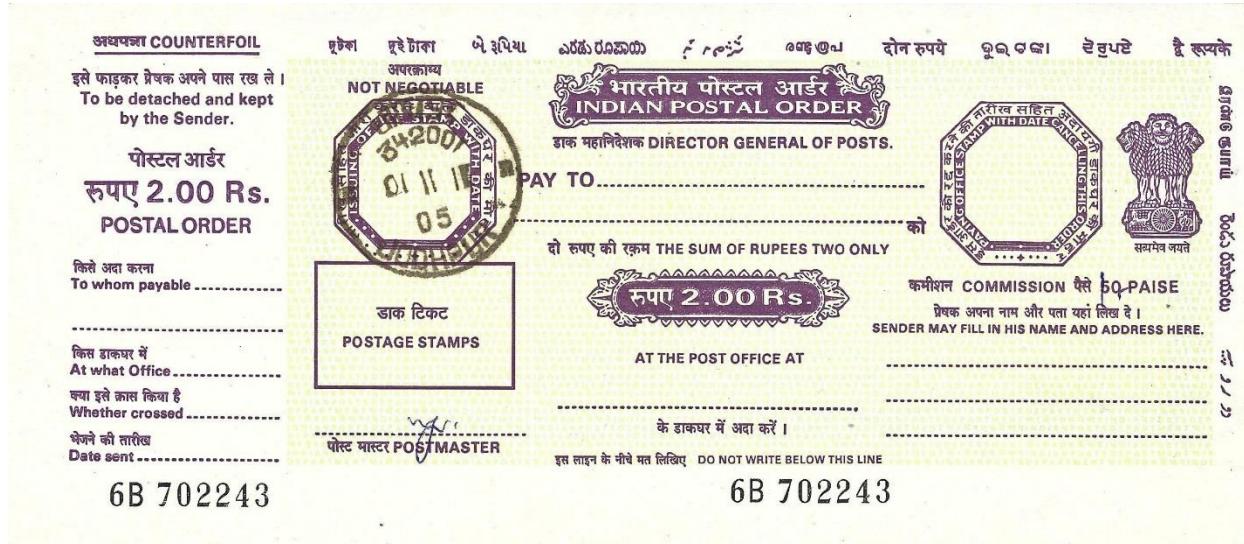
Design Like Bank Cheque

Non-MICR Serial Number

Minimum Commission Value:

50 Paise Surcharged 1 Rupee

Type 72A

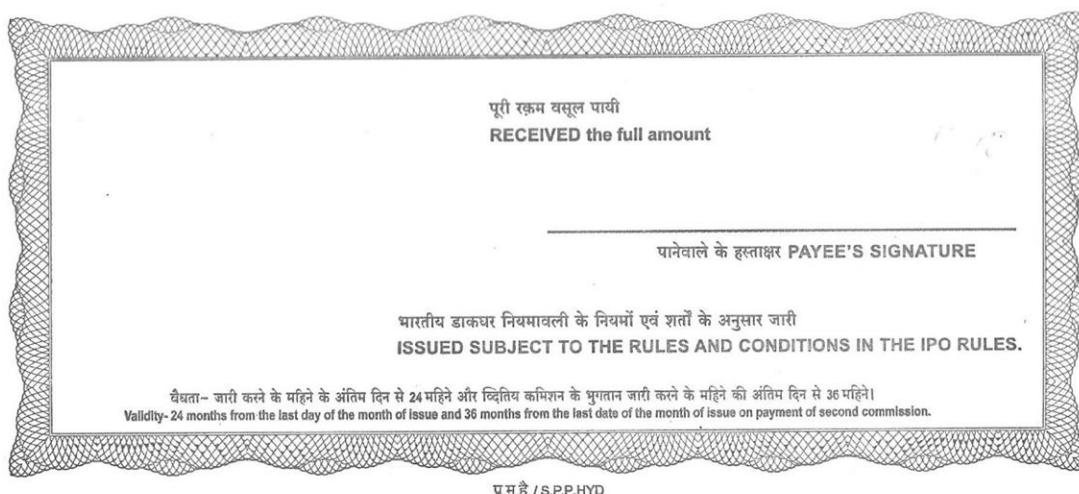
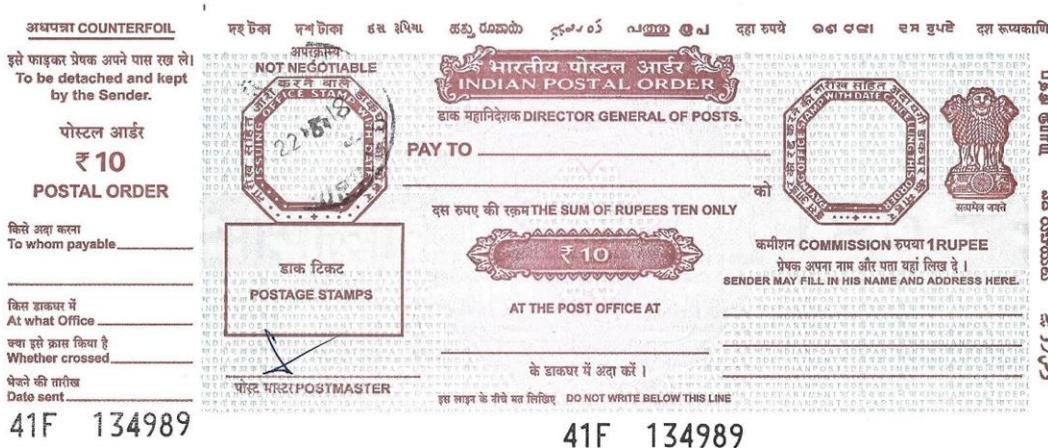


Note: The Serial Number font is different compared to the other Postal Orders

Design Like Bank Cheque

Non-MICR Serial Number -
Rupee Symbol (₹) Added

Type 73



Watermark:

- Pattern of 4 Ashok Stambha Connected Together is Repeated

Commission Value	Postal Order Value	Color	Serial Number Prefix	Confirmed
1 Rupee			A	
2 Rupees			B	
5 Rupees			C	
7 Rupees			D	
1 Rupee	10 Rupees	Brown on Blue Underprint	E & F	Yes
2 Rupees	20 Rupees			
5 Rupees	50 Rupees	Brown on Multicolor Underprint	G	Yes
10 Rupees	100 Rupees	Brown on Multicolor Underprint	H	Yes

Design Like Bank Cheque

Non-MICR Serial Number -
Rupee Symbol (₹) Added

Type 73

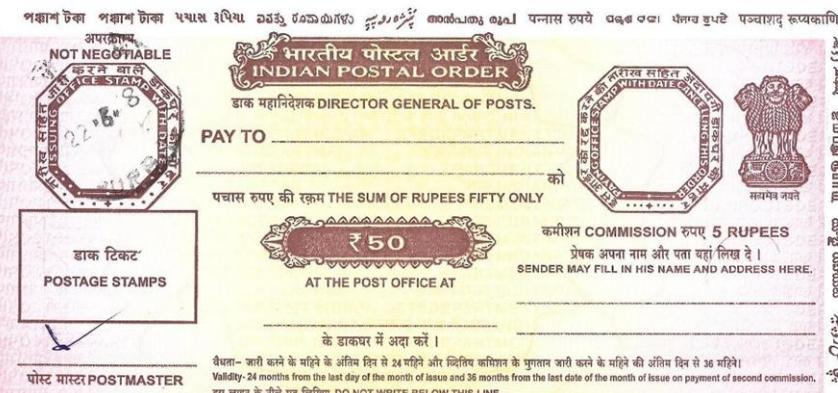
अधिपत्रा COUNTERFOIL
इसे फाइकर प्रेषक अपने पास रख ले।
To be detached and kept
by the Sender.

पोस्टल आर्डर
₹ 50
POSTAL ORDER

किसे अदा करा
To whom payable _____

किस डाकघर में
At what Office _____
क्या इसे छात किया है
Whether crossed _____
मेजर की गारिव
Date sent _____

91G 743220



91G 743220

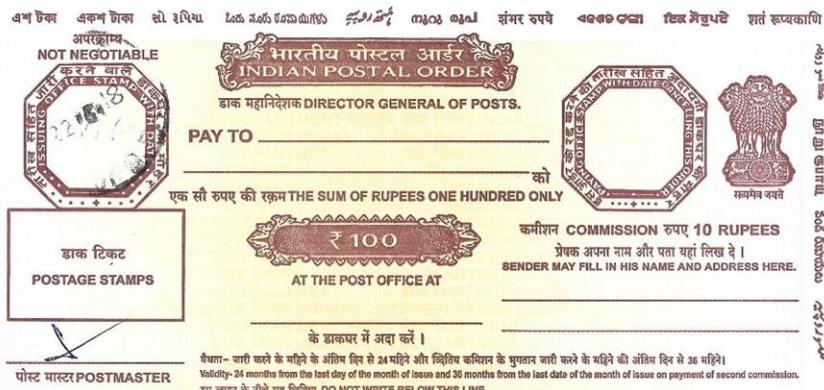
अधिपत्रा COUNTERFOIL
इसे फाइकर प्रेषक अपने पास रख ले।
To be detached and kept
by the Sender.

पोस्टल आर्डर
₹ 100
POSTAL ORDER

किसे अदा करा
To whom payable _____

किस डाकघर में
At what Office _____
क्या इसे छात किया है
Whether crossed _____
मेजर की गारिव
Date sent _____

52H 331629



52H 331629

Note: The design of Postal Order of 100 Rupees is **same** as the other denominations

Indian Postal Order

F. No. 28-54/2013-PO
Government of India
Ministry of Communications
Department of Posts
(PO Division)

Dak Bhawan, Sansad Marg,
New Delhi – 110 001.

Dated: 23rd November, 2016.

To

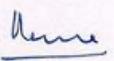
All Head of Circles.

Subject: Discontinuation of Indian Postal Orders (IPOs).

A proposal is under consideration in Directorate whether to discontinue the Indian Postal Orders to reduce the cost of operations of the product.

2. You are therefore, requested to provide your comments on whether continue with or discontinue the Indian Postal Orders and IPO replacement with the e-payment mode. Any other suggestions are also welcome.

3. Your report should reach this Directorate by 28.11.2016 on email ID-po@indiapost.gov.in.



23.11.2016
(M.S. Rana)
Assistant Director General (PO)

Field Postal Order

6

Information	<p>Field Postal Orders were introduced by Army Postal Service for the convenience of armed forces personnel remitting money to family members.</p> <p>Field Postal Orders, the convenient, safe and economical remittance facility, meant exclusively for defence personnel, was formally launched with the handing over of a Field Postal Order to Lt. Gen. Sudhir Sharma, Quartermaster General and Colonel Commandant of the Army Postal Service by Mr. IMG Khan, Secretary, Department of Posts at a ceremony held at the 1 Central Base Post Office at Delhi Cantonment on 16th March 2007.</p> <p>Field Postal Orders can be encashed at any civil or Army Post Office in India.</p>
Regulations	<p>Indian Post Office Rules related to Field Postal Orders are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(i) Field Postal Order presented within four months from the last day of the month of issue are encashable without second commission. If a field Postal Order is not presented for payment within four months from the last day of the month of issue, a second commission equal to the first commission shall be charged, which shall be paid in postage stamps affixed to the back of the order.(ii) Field Postal Orders presented for payment more than six months after the last day of the month of issue will not be paid but will be forfeited.
Years of Issue	16 th March 2007 – Discontinued in ????
Watermark	Rows of Ashok Stambh
Printer	None
Size	Typical size without the counterfoil is 113 x 185 mm ² Typical size the counterfoil is 113 x 245 mm ²
Denominations	Rupees 2000, 3000, 5000, 10000, 15000, 20000
Comments	





Commission Value	Postal Order Value	Color	Serial Number Prefix	Confirmed
30 Rupees	2000 Rupees	Purple on Green Underprint	A	Image
30 Rupees	3000 Rupees	Purple on Green Underprint	B	
50 Rupees	5000 Rupees	Purple on Green Underprint	C	
60 Rupees	10000 Rupees	Purple on Green Underprint	D	
80 Rupees	15000 Rupees	Purple on Green Underprint	E	
90 Rupees	20000 Rupees	Purple on Green Underprint	F	



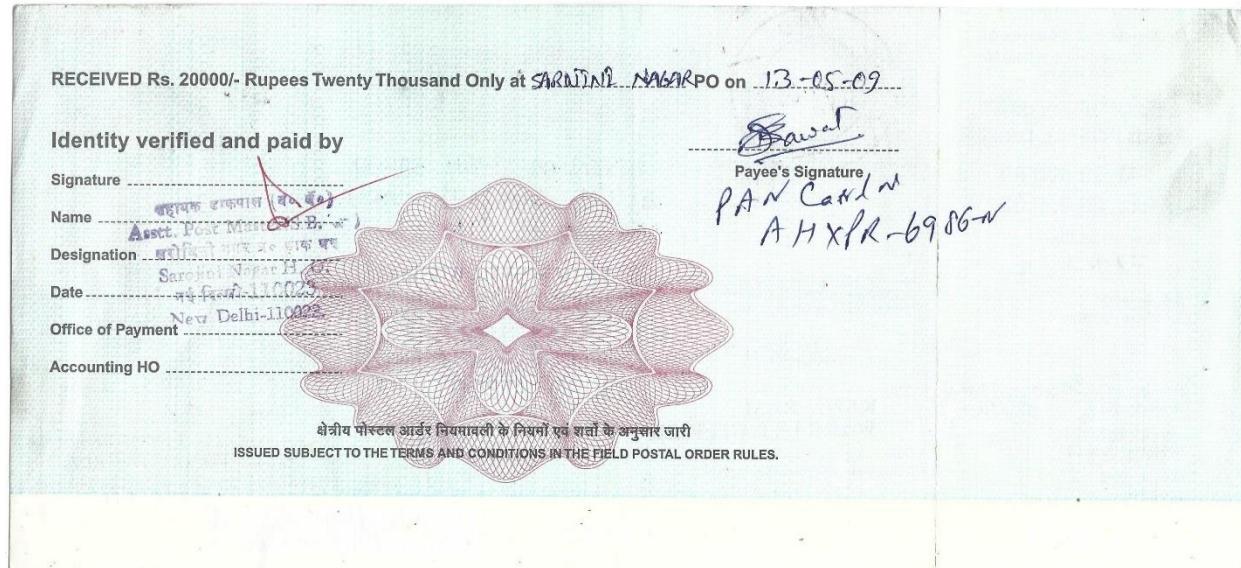


Image Courtesy: Seventy Five Years of Indian Postal Orders by Kishore K. Yalamanchili, India Post Oct-Dec 2010

Commission Value	Postal Order Value	Color	Serial Number Prefix	Confirmed
30 Rupees	2000 Rupees	Red & Yellow	A	Image
30 Rupees	3000 Rupees		B	
50 Rupees	5000 Rupees		C	
60 Rupees	10000 Rupees		D	
80 Rupees	15000 Rupees		E	
90 Rupees	20000 Rupees	Purple & Green	F	Yes



कमीशन COMMISSION रुपये 90.00 RUPEES



Indian Postal Orders Overprinted for Use in Pakistan

7

Pakistan

On 15th August 1947, India obtained its independence from British rule. However, the country was divided into the dominions of India and Pakistan with both dominions continuing to use existing financial documents, including savings certificates, used in British India. Under an agreement, until the Government of Pakistan could establish the necessary regulatory authorities, India provided the required Postal Orders by overprinting the word "PAKISTAN" in English in black ink.

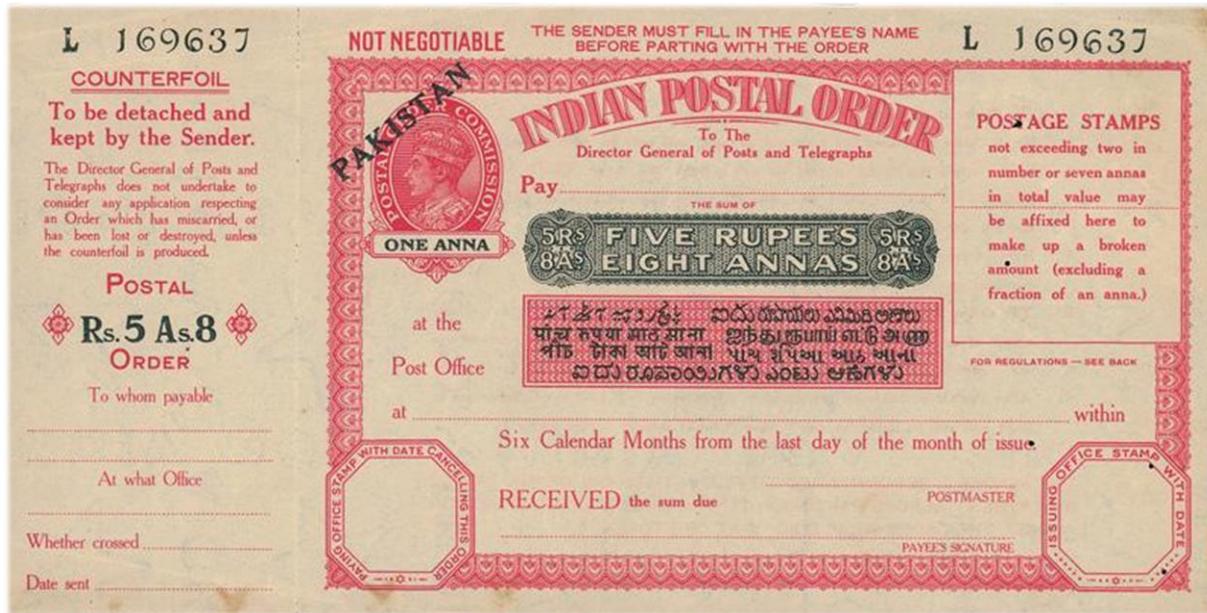


Image Courtesy: Grosvenor Philatelic Auctions

British & Irish Postal Orders Used in India

8

The British & Irish Postal Orders were used in India for a very long time.

Below are some of the points from “Postal Manual Volume VI Corrected up to 30-9-1986” published by The Director General of Posts, India:

Conditions of Payment: The conditions under which the payment of British Postal Orders are effected and other information regarding such orders will be found in Section VII of the Post Office Guide Part I.

Offices Authorised To Pay Postal Orders: All Head Offices and selected Sub-Offices are authorised to Pay British and Irish Postal Orders. An Irish Postal Order presented for payment at a Sub-Office other than a selected one, will be sent to the nearest authorised office for verification. When the order is received back with necessary remarks, the amount thereof will, under the conditions prescribed for payment of British Postal Orders, be paid to the holder.

Order of Payment by Postmaster: Every British or Irish Postal Order should, after examination, be placed before the postmaster, who will, if it satisfies the required conditions, impress it with the round M. O. Stamp in the round space provided for the purpose. He will also sign the order on the reverse with an indication of his designation. Care should be taken that postage stamps affixed to the face of the orders to make up broken amount are on no account defaced in the office of payment and that the value of stamps which are affixed elsewhere than in the proper space is not passed for payment.

Payment to Holder: (1) The amount to be paid for a British or Irish Postal Order should be the value of the order plus the value of such adhesive stamps affixed to the proper space on the face of order and passed for payment. (2) Before payment is made, however, it should be seen that the order bears a proper receipting signature in the space provided for the purpose. The payee must sign with his initial or full name and the signature name should correspond with the name entered as the name of the payee in the body of the order.

Payment of Crossed Orders: A British or Irish Postal Order which is crossed cannot be paid except when presented through a bank. If an order is crossed generally, that is; without any bank being named, it may be paid through any bank which presents it; if the postal order has been crossed with the addition of the name of a particular bank, it should be paid only to that bank.

Period of Currency of Orders: British or Irish Postal Order presented for payment, after three months but before six months from the last day of the month in which the order was issued, is payable only on payment of a commission at the rates notified in the Appendix to the Postal Order. The holder should be requested to affix Indian Postage Stamps of the value required to the back of the order. The full value of the order should then be paid in the usual way. The postage stamps affixed to the back of the order should be defaced by an impression of the date-stamp.

Some of the below topics were also discussed in great details:

- Examining Orders Bearing Postage Stamps Thoroughly When They Come For Enhancement
- Cases in Which Defective Orders May be Paid
- Loss of British or Irish Postal Order After Payment
- Entries in Journal of British or Irish Postal Orders Paid

British Postal Orders Used in India

Soon after the introduction of the British Postal Orders in England, on 1st October 1881, the British Postal Orders System was introduced in India from 1st October 1884. The Postal Notice dated 25th September 1884 provides all the operational details. They probably continued to be used in India long time after independence.

These were mainly intended for the convenience of European residents and specially soldiers and seamen in remitting small sums to England. They were on sale at all Head Post Offices and Sub-Post Offices situated at cantonments, at large railway stations, and at places at which there was fairly large concentration of Europeans.

Initially the denominations ranged from 1 Shilling to 1 Pound, but not long after appeared in denominations ranging from 6 Pence and progressively increasing up to 21 Shillings in increments of 6 Pence.

Indian postage stamps not exceeding three in number or 5 annas in total value were allowed to be affixed to the face of a British Postal Order issued in India.

In 1906, the rate of exchange was 1 Penny = 1 Anna

Initially, the British Postal Orders were not payable in India, but could be paid in England or may also have been paid in Treaty Ports. Starting 1st October 1905, the British Postal Orders were paid in India as part of a scheme for the use of British Postal Orders throughout the Empire.

Postal Notice Dated 25th September 1884

With effect from 1st October, 1884, British Postal Orders for fixed sums, from 1d to £1, will be available for sale to the public at all Head Post Offices, and will be obtainable on application to any Sub-Post Office from its Head Office.

2. The following are the amounts for which British Postal Orders are issued, together with the cost of each order in Indian currency, including commission and exchange:

Amounts of British Postal Order	Cost in Indian Currency, Including Commission & Exchange	Amounts of British Postal Order	Cost in Indian Currency, Including Commission & Exchange
s. d.	Rs. A. P.	s. d.	Rs. A. P.
1 0	0 10 9	4 0	2 11 0
1 6	0 15 9	5 0	3 3 0
2 0	1 5 6	7 6	4 11 6
2 6	1 10 3	10 0	6 4 3
3 0	1 15 3	10 6	6 9 0
3 6	2 4 3	15 0	9 6 3
4 0	2 9 0	20 0	12 7 6

Note. The cost of a British Postal Order is liable to vary slightly owing to fluctuations of exchange. The rate of exchange in force can be ascertained from the Post Office.

POSTAL NOTICE			
BRITISH POSTAL ORDERS			
W ITH effect from 1 st October, 1884, British Postal Orders for fixed sums, from 1d to £1, will be available for sale to the public at all Head Post Offices, and will be obtainable on application to any Sub-Post Office from its Head Office.			
Amounts of British Postal Orders.	Cost in Indian currency, including commission and exchange.	Amounts of British Postal Orders.	Cost in Indian currency, including commission and exchange.
s. d.	Rs. A. P.	s. d.	Rs. A. P.
1 0	0 10 9	4 0	2 11 0
1 6	0 15 9	5 0	3 3 0
2 0	1 5 6	7 6	4 11 6
2 6	1 10 3	10 0	6 4 3
3 0	1 15 3	10 6	6 9 0
3 6	2 4 3	15 0	9 6 3
4 0	2 9 0	20 0	12 7 6

Note.—The cost of a British Postal Order is liable to vary slightly owing to fluctuations of exchange. The rate of exchange in force can be ascertained from the Post Office.

3. British Postal Orders issued from any Indian Post Office are payable at any Money Order Office in the United Kingdom (including the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man) and at Gibraltar and Constantinople.

4. The purchaser of a British Postal Order must, before parting with it, fill in the name of the person to whom the order is to be paid, and may fill in the name of the Money Order Office in the United Kingdom, &c., at which the amount is to be paid. If the name of a Money Order Office is not entered by the purchaser, the order will be payable at any Money Order Office named by the payee.

5. The purchaser should keep a record of the number and date and name of the Office of issue of the order, to facilitate enquiry if the order should be lost.

6. After a British Postal Order has once been paid, to whomsoever it is paid, the British Post Office will not be liable for any further claim.

7. If any erasure or alteration be made, or if the order is cut, defaced, or mutilated payment may be refused.

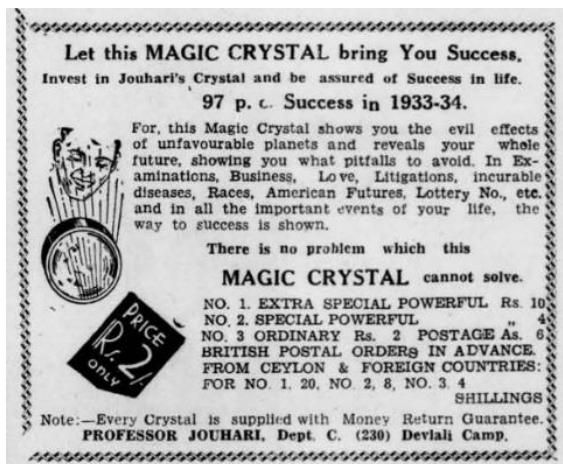
8. After the expiration of three months from the last day of the month of issue, a British Postal Order will be payable only on payment by the payee of a commission equal to the amount of the original British poundage marked on the order.

A. U. FANSHAWE,
Offg. Director General of the Post Office of India.
Simla, the 25th Sept. 1884.

3. British Postal Orders issued from any Indian Post Office are payable at any Money Order Office in the United Kingdom (including the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man) and at Gibraltar and Constantinople.
4. The purchaser of a British Postal Order must, before parting with it, fill in the name of the person to whom the order is to be paid, and may fill in the name of the Money Order Office (in the United Kingdom, &c) at which the amount is to be paid. If the name of a Money Order Office is not entered by the purchaser, the order will be payable at any Money Order Office named by the payee.
5. The purchaser should keep a record of the number and date and name of the Office of Issue of the order, to facilitate enquiry if the order should be lost.
6. After a British Postal Order has once been paid, to whomsoever it is paid, the British Post Office will not be liable for any further claim.
7. If any erasure or alteration be made, or if the order is cut, defaced, or mutilated payment may be refused.
8. After the expiration of three months from the last day of the month of issue, a British Postal Order will be payable only on payment by the payee of a commission equal to the amount of the original British poundage marked on the order.

A. U. Fanshawe, Officiating Director General of the Post Office of India. Simla, the 25th Sept. 1884.

An Example of Usage of British Postal Orders in India



An advertise from a newspaper *The Bombay Chronicle* dated 25th November 1934 where you can buy Magic Crystal from India from foreign countries by making payment using British Postal Order in India.

Unintended Foreign Exchange Complications in Usage of British Postal Orders in India

Using a financial instrument of a country priced in one currency, in other country having a different currency, is always very complex as the foreign exchange rates keep on fluctuating very frequently.

Usage of British Postal Orders in India faced the issue of foreign exchange complications, before a solution was found. Below exchanges provide more details:

From Deputy Director General, India Post Office, to Secretary GPO on 28th November 1907:

"As you are aware, British Postal Orders are sold in this country at the fixed rate of Rs. 15/- to the pound sterling, and the poundage charged is limited to the amount marked on each Postal Order. In consequence of a recent and unusually substantial fall in the market rate of exchange on London, some heavy demands for Postal Orders have been made by a certain bank at Calcutta, Bombay,

and Madras, and these demands have had to be met so far as could be done from the stocks held by the post offices at these places. In order, however, to prevent, as far as possible, the recurrence of similar improper demands, orders have been issued by Government at the Director General's request restricting the sale of Postal Orders by limiting to £20 the value of such Orders which any one purchaser may obtain in a single day. Mr. Stewart-Wilson trusts that this action will meet with the approval of His Majesty's Postmaster General.

I am to add that it has been arranged, for the same reasons, simultaneously to place similar restrictions on the issue of Money Orders for the United Kingdom by limiting to £100 the amount for which any one remitter may obtain money orders on the United Kingdom in any one day."

From A. Godby, India Office, to Secretary, GPO on 6th December 1907:

"I am directed by the Secretary of State for India in Council to inform you that he has been informed by the Government of India that British Postal Orders for £10,000 and other large sums were recently bought by certain banks in India, and there can be little doubt that these purchases were made in order to take advantage of the fact that remittances to England could at the time be made more profitably in this manner than by means of bills of exchange and telegraphic transfers.

The action of the banks in question was not in accordance with the objects for which the Postal and Money Order system was established, and if repeated on a large scale might cause inconvenience to the Government of India and the Secretary of State for India in Council. The Government of India have accordingly issued instructions prohibiting the issue to any one individual on any one day of British Postal Orders in excess of £20 or of Money Orders on the United Kingdom in excess of £100, and it may be hoped that these instructions, coupled with the recent improvement in the Indian Exchange, will prevent the further use of Postal and Money Orders for large financial operations. Should this anticipation not be realised, the only effective remedy will apparently be to raise the rate of commission on orders issued in India, and I am to ask whether the Post Master General objects to this being done, if necessary, either now or at any future time."

From GPO to Under Secretary of State for India, India Office on 13th December 1907

"I am directed by the Postmaster General to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 6th of this month announcing the action taken by the Government of India in view of the large purchases of British Postal Orders recently made by certain banks in India, presumably in order to take advantage of the profit which this course offered at the time for remittances to England.

The Postmaster General notes that the Government of India have issued instructions prohibiting the issue to any one individual on any one day of British Postal Orders in excess of £20 or of Money Orders on the United Kingdom in excess of £100.

In regard to the proposal that if, contrary to that Government's anticipation, further measures are required, the rate of commission on orders issued in India should be raised, I am to state, for the information of the Secretary of State for India in Council, that one way of meeting the difficulty would be to adjust the rate of conversion of the amounts of Money Orders and Postal Orders to the market rate of exchange. There are however some obvious objections to this course, and if the Government of India desires to maintain in this connection the rate of 1s/4d per rupee, the Postmaster General would make no objection to a temporary increase in the charge for commission

whenever the course of exchange renders it necessary. Any modification either of conversion rate or of commission should of course be notified to this Office.”

Volume of Usage of British Postal Orders in India

In the early years starting 1885 and a couple of decades after that the sales of British Postal Orders in India were disappointing. In the first full accounting year 1885-86 only 15,910 British Postal Orders were sold in India and earning only 838 Rupees as commission.

But the sale did eventually pick up. In accounting year 1903-04, 141,429 British Postal Orders were sold in India and the commission earned was Rupees 6,500. The number of British Postal Orders issued or paid by India during 1933 further increased to 427,400.

“Poundage” Related to the British Postal Orders Sold in India

Any Postal Order has two financial values:

- **Value of the Postal Order:** the first one is the value of the Postal Order the buyer is buying. This amount will be paid by the post office when cashed
- **Postal Order Commission:** the second one is the commission to be paid by the buyer of the Postal Order to the post office for the services provided

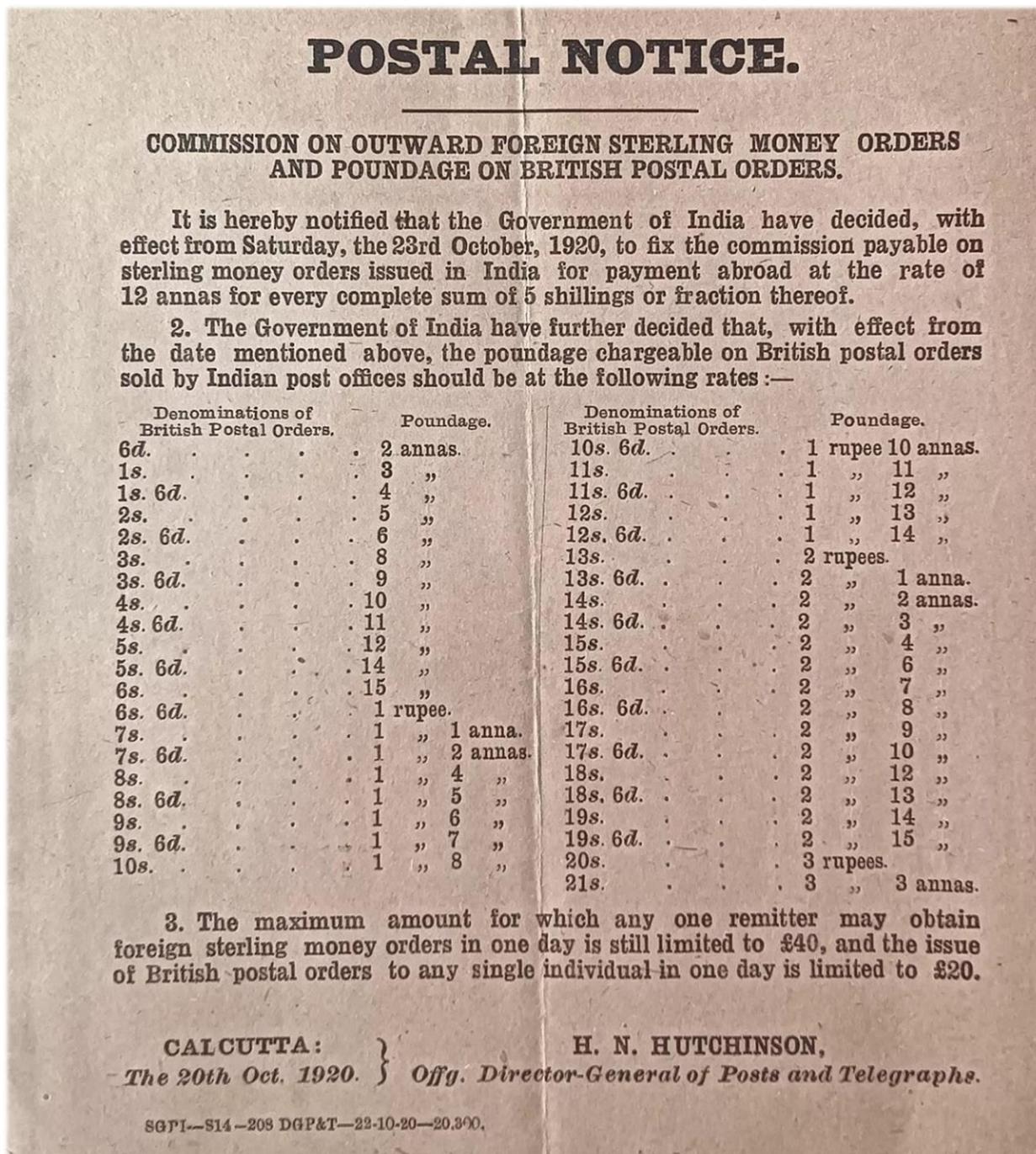
British Postal Orders were denominated in British currency Pence & Shillings and they were to be sold or paid in British Indian currency of the time as Rupees & Annas. Both the financial values of the British Postal Orders, namely the *Value of the Postal Order* & the *Postal Order Commission*, were always required to be converted from the British currency to the Indian currency. The word used for this was “Poundage”. The classic definition of Poundage is *a payment for a particular amount to be made per pound*. The word “Poundage” related to the British Postal Orders sold in India, refers to both of the above values in different contexts, sometimes creating confusion.

As documented before, the foreign exchange complications in usage of British Postal Orders in India were there. The implications of a substantial financial loss due to the Poundage values related to the *Value of the Postal Order* were huge. Compared to that the financial implications of the Poundage values related to the *Postal Order Commission* were minimal.

As the exchange rates fluctuate very frequently, the Poundage values related to the Value of the Postal Order were adjusted frequently to avoid substantial financial losses. These Poundage values were not printed on the British Postal Orders. These values were used as reference values based on the official Postal Notice available on the day of the transaction while converting British currency into Indian currency while making the payment or collecting the required Indian currency while selling the British Postal Order at the post offices.

Poundage Related to the Value of the British Postal Orders Sold & Paid in India

The below Postal Notice provides an example of the Poundage related to the Value of the British Postal Orders sold and paid in India from 23rd October 1920:



Poundage Related to the Postal Order Commission Charged for British Postal Orders Sold in India

When the British Postal Orders were first introduced in India, it was decided that the Poundage related to the Postal Order Commission to be charged to be kept simple at the rate of 1 Penny = 1 Anna. So, for example, if a 20 Shillings British Postal Order with a printed *Postal Order Commission* value of Two Pence was to be purchased in India, a Postal Order Commission of 2 Annas was collected.

In the above scenario, the British Postal Orders which were to be used in India, were only overprinted with the text “INDIA”. There was no need to print additional value related to the *Postal Order Commission* to be collected.

But as time went by and as the cost of operations increased, there was a need to change the Poundage related to the *Postal Order Commission* from the simple rate of 1 Penny = 1 Anna. This created a need to print additional value related to the *Postal Order Commission* to be collected on the British Postal Orders sold in India.

Poundage Related to the Postal Order Commission Charged for British Postal Orders Sold in India Changed from 1st July 1906

It was announced by the Director General of the Post Office in India that a reduction in the rates of poundage now charged on the sale of certain denominations of British Postal Orders in India will be made from 1st July 1906. On and after that date, the Poundage charged will be as below:

Denomination	Poundage Charged by India
From 6d to 2s 6d	½ anna
From 3s to 15s	1 annas
From 15s 6d to 21s	1½ annas

Reference: *The Bombay Gazette*, 29th June 1906

Poundage Related to the Postal Order Commission Charged for British Postal Orders Sold in India Changed from 10th May 1920

On and after that date, the Poundage charged will be as below:

Denomination	Poundage Charged by India
From 6d to 2s 6d	½ anna
From 3s to 15s	1½ annas
From 15s 6d to 21s	2 annas

Reference: *The Times of India*, 10th May 1920

The new commission Poundage rates were overprinted locally in India on the available stock of the British Postal Orders.

Levy of Additional Poundage for Postal Order Commission on British Postal Orders Sold in India from 1st October 1936

On 25th January 1934 S. B. Sinha, Deputy Director-General, Postal Services, New Delhi sent a letter to Secretary, GPO, London stating that in 1904 His Majesty's Postmaster General was pleased to grant to the India Post Office a rebate on the poundage on British Postal Orders sold in India at the rate of £2 per thousand orders and a commission at the same rate on British Postal Orders paid in India. But that in 1934 the approximate cost incurred by the Indian Post Office in connection with the British Postal Order transactions amounted to £4.63 per thousand orders sold or paid in India. Considering this, the rebate on the poundage on British Postal Orders sold in India should be increased.

On 5th June 1935 Indian Post Office, Simla wrote to Director, Postal Services Dept. GPO that on the subject of charging additional poundage on British Postal Orders sold in India, it has been decided by the Indian Post Office, subject to the approval of the Government of India to charge additional poundage on British Postal Orders sold in India. The total poundage chargeable on a British Postal Orders sold in India will therefore be as follows:

Denomination	Existing Poundage Charged by India	Proposed Total Poundage to be Charged by India
From 6d to 2s 6d	1d = $\frac{1}{2}$ anna	$\frac{1}{2}$ anna + 1 anna = 1½ annas
From 3s to 15s	$1\frac{1}{2}$ d = 1½ annas	1½ annas + 1anna = 2½ annas
From 15s 6d to 21s	2d = 2 annas	2 annas + 1½ annas = 3½ annas

The original poundage impressed upon British postal orders was charged by the Indian Post Office on orders in India on the assumption that 1d is equal to 1 anna. It was, therefore, considered necessary that the orders, which may be in the stock of the Indian Post Office on the date of introduction of the proposed change in India, should be surcharged by the Indian Post Office with the proposed total poundage to be charged by the Indian Post Office.

On 15th June 1936 A. J. L. Gonet, Assistant Deputy Director General, India Post Office, New Delhi wrote to Director, Postal Services Dept., GPO, London that it has proposed to introduce the change of poundage to be charged on British Postal Orders to be sold in India from the 1st October 1936, subject to the availability of initial stock of British Postal Orders overprinted with the revised rates of poundage as proposed.

On 18th July 1936 the Money Order Department in London communicated to the Stores Department in London that the British Postal Orders to be overprinted for India with the new poundage rates as follows:

Denomination	Poundage Payable in India
6d to 2/6	1½ Annas
3/- to 15/-	2½ Annas
15/6 to 21/-	3½ Annas

Three months' supply of British Postal Orders, a total of 83,400 to be used in India and printed with new poundage were dispatched on 29th July 1936 and were received in India on the 15th August 1936 arriving before the introduction on the new poundage starting 1st October 1936.

Reference: The information presented in this section has been extracted by Douglas N. Muir RDP from the files titled as "Imperial Postal Order Scheme: Overprinting of Colonial Poundage" held at The Postal Museum. Mr. Douglas N. Muir served as Senior Curator, Philately at The Postal Museum for 34 years. (<https://www.postalmuseum.org/>)

British Postal Orders Overprinted to be Used in India

The British Postal Orders are seen with 3 different overprints to be used in India:

Overprint Example	Overprinted Text	Probable Timeline	Details
	INDIA	1913 - 1936	In September 1913 the Indian government asked that British Postal Orders should be overprinted "India". This was agreed the same month and implemented by November that year with the overprinting being undertaken by the Bank of England the same way as they did for other colonies. The Bank of England printed all British Postal Orders until 1923. After that, the contract to print British Postal Orders went to McCorquodale & Company Ltd. So thereafter, overprinting was done either at McCorquodale or at Somerset House.
	POUNDAGE / PAYABLE IN / INDIA / ?? ANNAS	For a short period of time in 1920 till the old stock was exhausted	The new commission Poundage rates were overprinted on the available stock of the British Postal Orders.
	POUNDAGE / PAYABLE IN / INDIA / ?? ANNAS	1936 -	In 1936 it was decided to levy additional poundage on British Postal Orders sold in India. It was also decided to overprint text "POUNDAGE PAYABLE IN INDIA" and the poundage amount. The overprinting was done at London and the overprinted British Postal Orders were shipped to India for them to be sold in India.
	INDIA / POUNDAGE / ?? ANNAS	For a short period of time in 1936 till the old stock held in India was exhausted	On 9 th October 1936 Assistant Deputy Director General, India Post Office, New Delhi communicated to Director, Postal Services Dept., GPO, London that there were unsold British Postal Orders already in India with the word "INDIA" overprinted. The position where the word "India" was printed made it impossible to overprint the words "Poundage payable in" above it as required. So, it was decided to overprint only the word "POUNDAGE" below the word "INDIA" locally in India on the unsold British Postal Orders held in India.

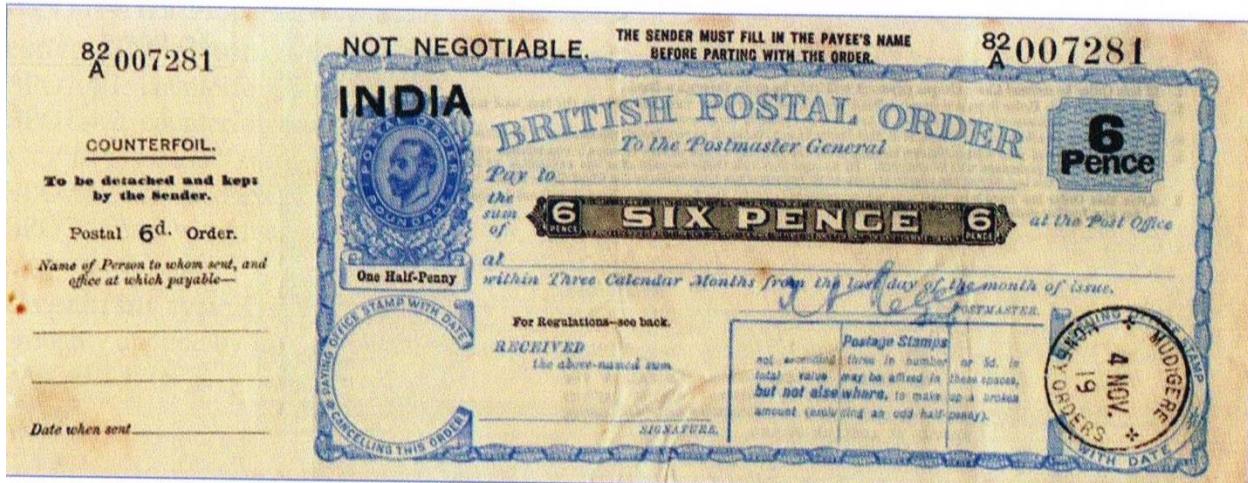


Image Courtesy: Overprinted British Postal Orders, Volume 1, Countries A to Muscat by John Gledhill, Second Edition, 2020

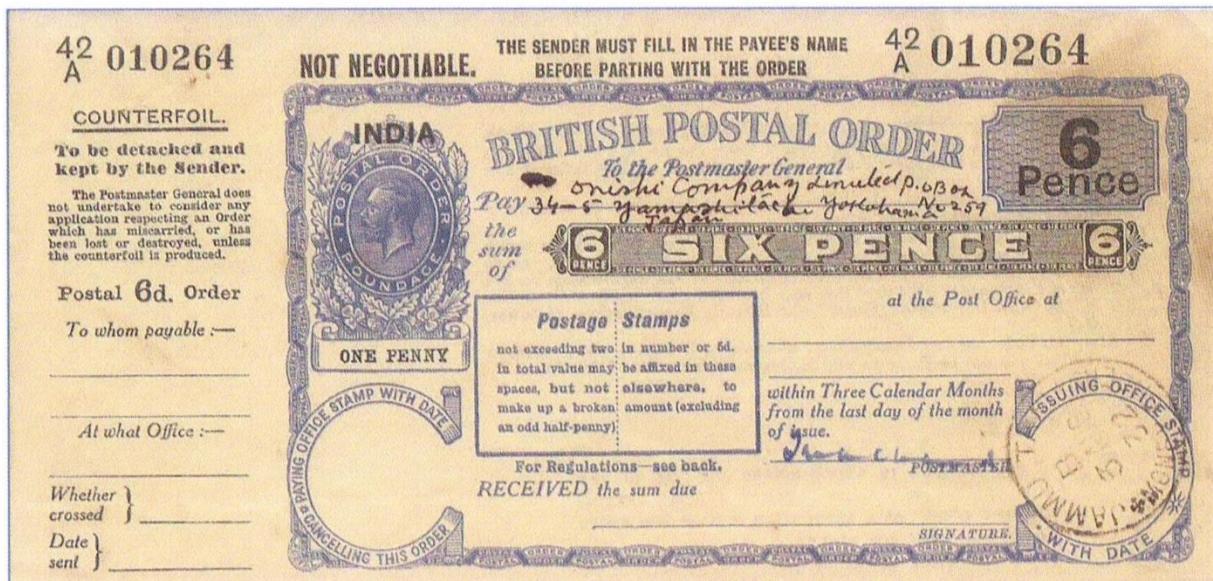


Image Courtesy: Overprinted British Postal Orders, Volume 1, Countries A to Muscat by John Gledhill, Second Edition, 2020



Image Courtesy: Mr. Aidan Work (<https://banknotebank.com>)



Image Courtesy: Mr. Aidan Work (<https://banknotebank.com>)



Image Courtesy: Indian Postal Orders and Postal Savings Certificates by Jack Harwood, India Post, Volume 17, 1983

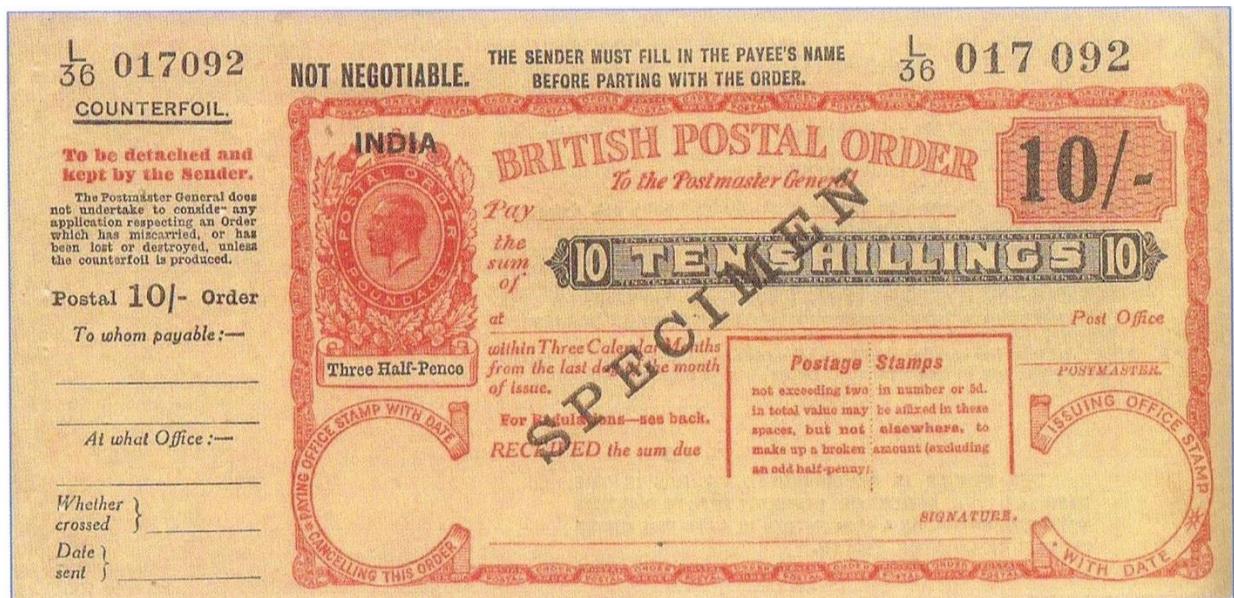


Image Courtesy: Overprinted British Postal Orders, Volume 1, Countries A to Muscat by John Gledhill, Second Edition, 2020

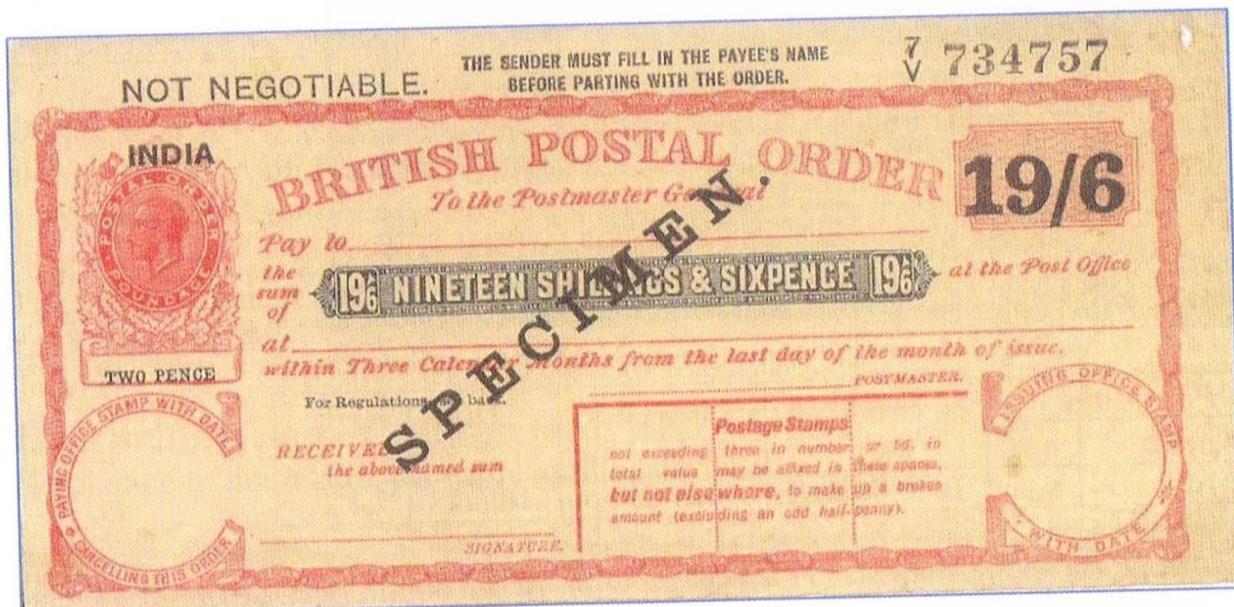


Image Courtesy: Overprinted British Postal Orders, Volume 1, Countries A to Muscat by John Gledhill, Second Edition, 2020



Image Courtesy: Overprinted British Postal Orders, Volume 1, Countries A to Muscat by John Gledhill, Second Edition, 2020



British Postal Order 1924 6d POUNDAGE PAYABLE IN INDIA, Issued from Bombay G.P.O. Money Order Cancellation, dated 19th March 1924. Poundage Opt. Obliterated by Thick Purple Bars. ½ Anna poundage, on 1d. Two KGV 2d Stamps affixed



Image Courtesy: Overprinted British Postal Orders, Volume 1, Countries A to Muscat by John Gledhill, Second Edition, 2020

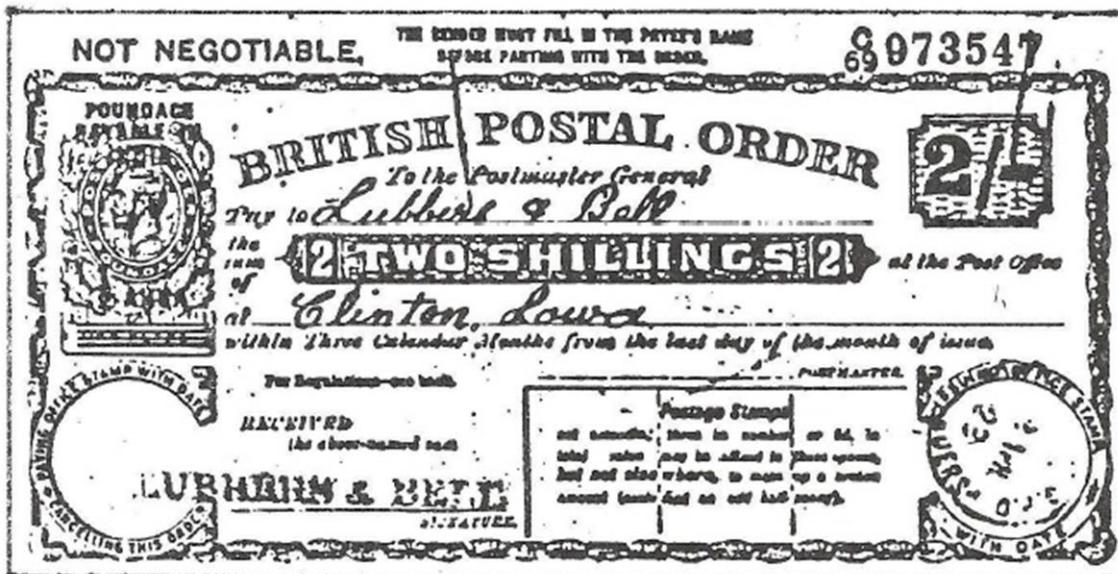


Image Courtesy: Indian Postal Orders and Postal Savings Certificates by Jack Harwood, India Post, Volume 17, 1983

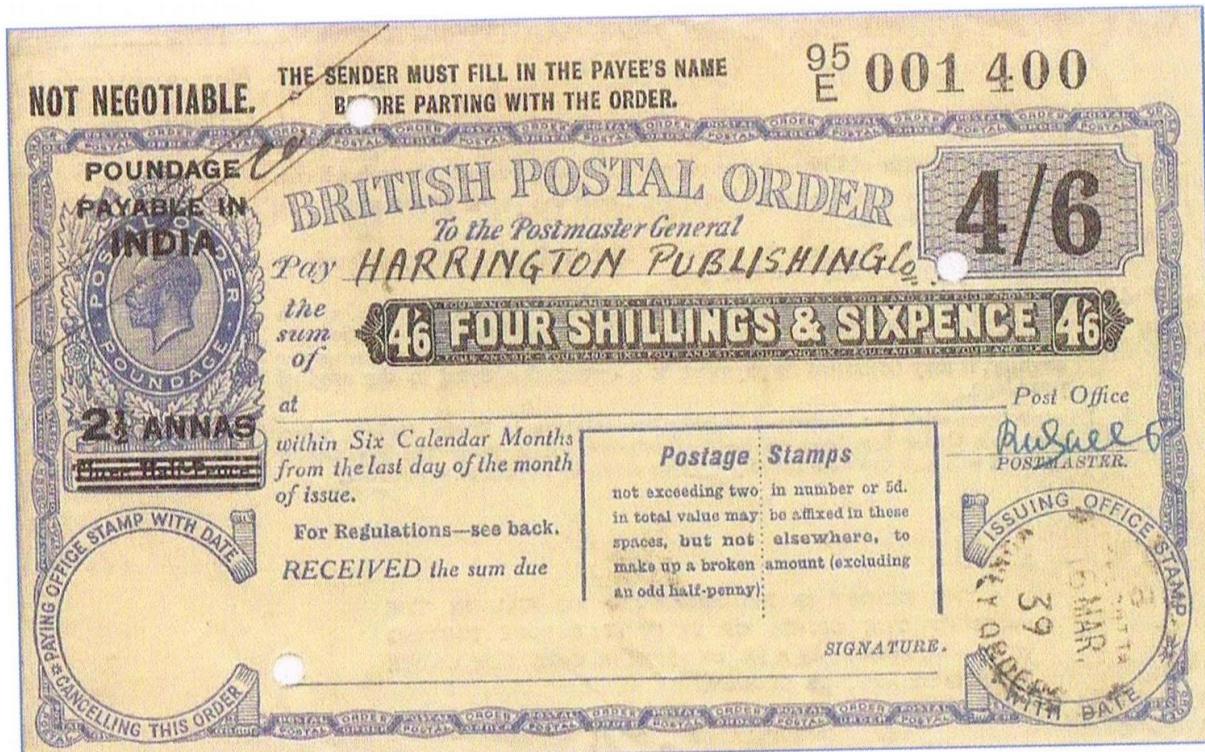


Image Courtesy: Overprinted British Postal Orders, Volume 1, Countries A to Muscat by John Gledhill, Second Edition, 2020



Image Courtesy: Overprinted British Postal Orders, Volume 1, Countries A to Muscat by John Gledhill, Second Edition, 2020



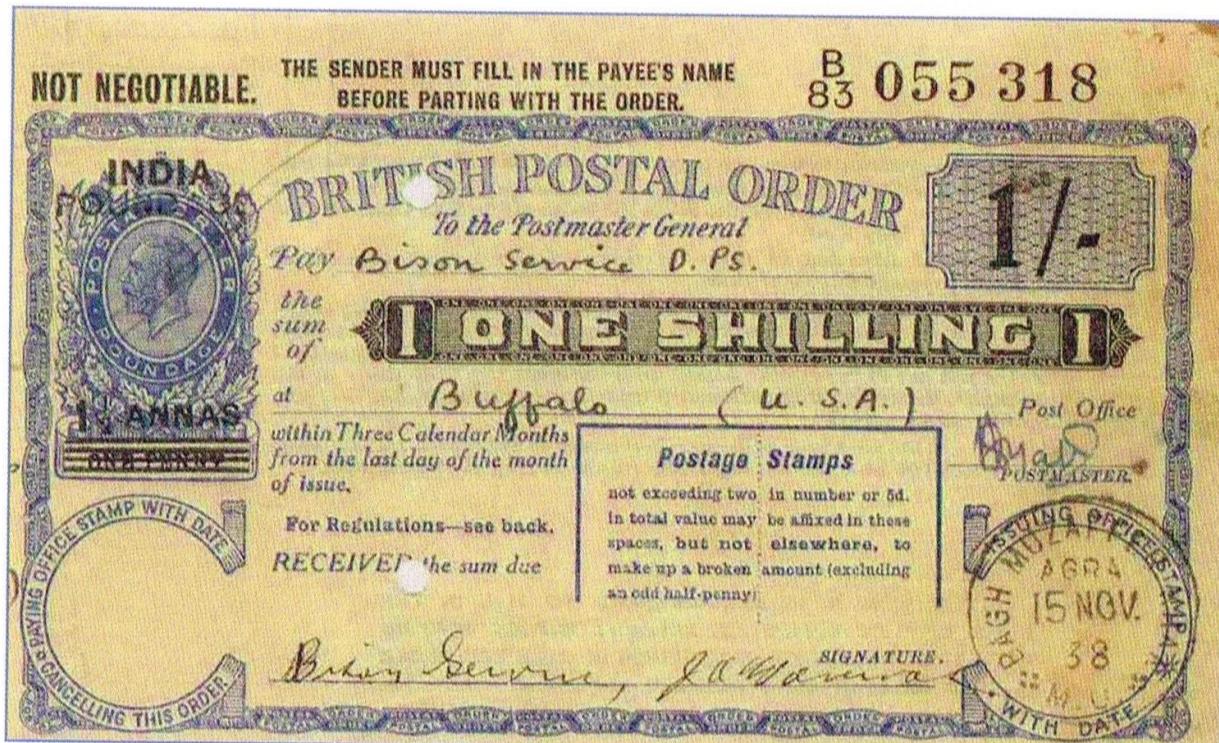


Image Courtesy: Overprinted British Postal Orders, Volume 1, Countries A to Muscat by John Gledhill, Second Edition, 2020



Irish Postal Orders Used in India

Irish Postal Orders were available in selected Indian Post Offices.

The Irish Postal Orders may have been introduced in India in 1928.

Denominations ranging from 6 Pence and progressively increasing up to 21 Shillings in increments of 6 Pence were available.

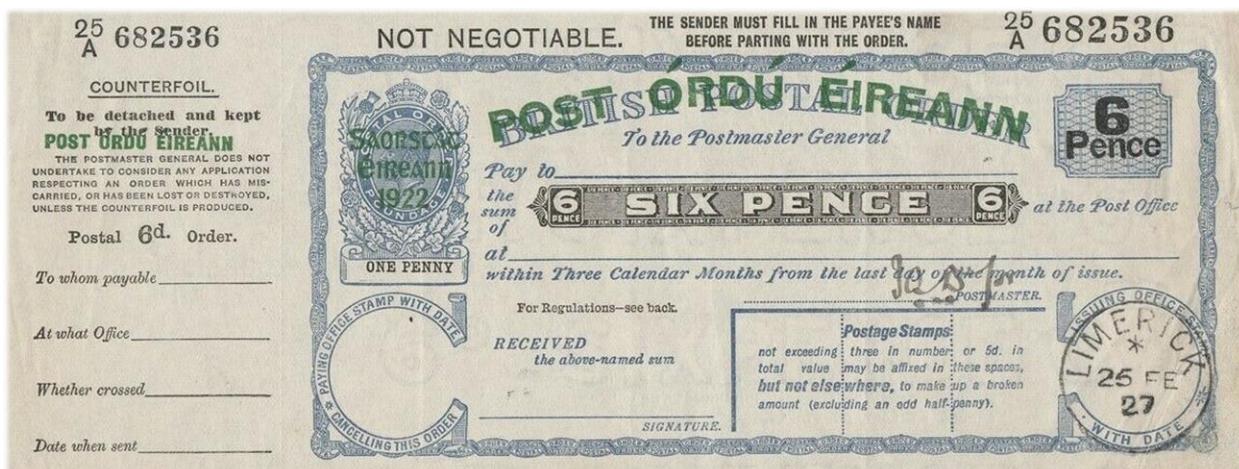
The Irish Postal Orders with the design of green color printing for values below 10 Shillings and in purple color printing for values above 10 Shillings might have been used in India.

These were mainly intended for the convenience of Irish citizens in remitting small sums to Ireland.

The payment of Irish Postal Orders in India was introduced in December 1930.

No examples of Irish Postal Orders with an Indian origination post office date stamp are reported till date.

Below is an example of Irish Postal Order, but it is not used in India:



INDIAN POSTS & TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT

Director General's Post Office Circular No. 2

Dated 7th April
March '54.Irish Postal OrdersMoney Order Department

Postal Orders of 25 sh; 30 sh and 40 sh denominations are being introduced in the Irish Republic with effect from 1st March, 1954. The senders may affix postage stamps not exceeding three in number upto the value of 11 pence on each such Postal Order.

These Irish Postal Orders, when received in India will be paid under the conditions laid down in Clauses 345 - 346-E of the Guide.

The amount payable to the payees for these Irish Postal Orders excluding the value of postage stamps, if any, on them is as follows:-

25 sh	Rs.16- 9-0
-------------	------------

30 sh	Rs.19-14-0
-------------	------------

40 sh	Rs.26- 8-0
-------------	------------

The P & T Guide should be amended suitably.

(C.67-2/54)

.....
No. C.67-2/54 dated 31 March '54.

Advance copy forwarded to :-

1. All Heads of Circles.
2. All Deputy Accountants General, Posts & Telegraphs.
3. Accountant General, Posts & Telegraphs, Simla.
4. Rates/F/D/Q/M Section, Directorate.

[Signature]
Assistant Director General

References

1. The Postage Stamps, Envelopes, Wrappers, Post Cards, and Telegraph Stamps of British India and Ceylon, by The Philatelic Society, London, 1892
2. A Collection Of Treaties, Engagements and Sanads Relating to India and Neighbouring Countries (Revised and Continued Up To 1929) Compiled by: C. U. Aitchison
3. National Archives of India, Janpath, New Delhi - 110001, India
4. Postal Stationery of British India 1856-1947 by Pratisad Neurgaonkar
5. Indian Postal History 1873 – 1923 by Brig. D. S. Virk
6. Indian Postal Notes 1883-1886 by Jack Harwood, India Post, Volume 46, 2012
7. Postal Manual Volume VI Corrected upto 30-9-1986, The Director General of Posts, India
8. Seventy Five Years of Indian Postal Orders by Kishore K. Yalamanchili, India Post, Oct-Dec 2010
9. British Postal Orders by Richard Solly, India Post, Volume 32, 1998
10. Indian Postal Orders & Postal Savings Certificates by Jack Harwood, India Post, Volume 17, 1983
11. Post Independence Indian Postal Orders by Richard Solly, Postal Order News, October 2005
12. Indian Postal Notes Issued Under British Administration by Richard Solly, Postal Order News, October 1999
13. India Postal Notes Issued in the Convention States by Richard Solly, Postal Order News, January 2007
14. Indian Field Force in Egypt by Jack Harwood, Postal Order News, Number 73, July 2004
15. Overprinted British Postal Orders, Volume 1, Countries A to Muscat by John Gledhill, Second Edition, 2020
16. Field Postal Order Launched for Defence Service Personnel
<https://pib.gov.in/newsite/erelcontent.aspx?relid=26076>

